

Turks cross into Syria to hit rebels

ANKARA (AP) — A military offensive against separatist Kurds has spread into Syria to strike at suspected guerrilla bases, reports said Saturday. Interior Minister Nahit Menesec was quoted by the Milliyet newspaper as saying Syria was supporting Turkey's fight against the Kurdish guerrillas, which have waged a nearly 10-year battle for autonomy. But Mr. Menesec would only say that troops were conducting operations along the border near the town of Suruc. Milliyet reported that helicopters carried soldiers inside Syria. There were no immediate details about the offensive. Turkey and Syria share a 877-kilometre (526 miles) border. Turkey has pressed Syria to extradite PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan, who lives in Damascus. The two countries have increased talks over the issue lately.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جورنال نويز يوميہ سیاسیہ میں پاکستانی اخباریہ



Volume 18 Number 5507

AMMAN SUNDAY, JANUARY 9, 1994, RAGAB 27, 1414

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

Dissident says Kikha in Tripoli

Cairo (AP) — The main dissident group opposed to Muammar Qaddafi said Saturday it has learned from people in Tripoli that a missing former foreign minister is being held in the Libyan capital. Spokesman Mohammad Gibril of the National Front for the Salvation of Libya revealed no evidence to support his claim on the whereabouts of Mansour R. Kikha. But he told the Associated Press: "Our sources in Tripoli assured us he is there." They might have seen him; they might have heard him; that he is there." Mr. Kikha's Syrian-born American wife, Bahia Omary, ended a four-day visit to Cairo on Saturday during which she met President Hosni Mubarak's top political adviser, Osama Al-Baz. "The Egyptian government showed her the process of investigation and assured her they are doing their best," Mr. Gibril said. "The Egyptians are embarrassed because Kikha's disappearance took them by surprise."

Balladour in Riyadh

Riyadh (AFP) — French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur arrived here Saturday for talks with King Fahd that French sources hope will pave the way for billions of dollars in trade and defence contracts with Saudi Arabia. Mr. Balladur, along with Foreign Minister, Alain Juppe, Defence Minister Francois Leotard and Industry Minister Gerard Longuet, was to sign a framework accord on commercial and military ties, the business and government-sources said. They were also to speak with King Fahd about security in the Gulf, the war in Bosnia and Saudi support for an economic aid programme for Algeria requested by the International Monetary Fund.

Clinton's mother's funeral draws many

HOT SPRING (AP) — Hundreds of mourners, from neighbours to friends to top administration officials to entertainer Barbara Streisand, where joining President Clinton in paying final respects to his mother Saturday. After the morning funeral for Virginia Kelley, the president was joining a procession for the 145 km drive to his birthplace of Hope, where Mrs. Kelley was being buried among the graves of other family members. Mr. Clinton was expected to return to Washington late Saturday night to begin a scheduled 10-day European trip.

Top Muslim cleric murdered in Algeria

ALGIERS (AFP) — The religious leader of the Muslim community in the Medea region near here was assassinated by a group of armed men after a prayer meeting. Algerian radio said Saturday. Director of Religious Affairs Mohammad Belahcene, 62, was gunned down Friday in the region 90 kilometres south of the capital, the radio said, without giving further details. He is the second religious leader to be murdered in the last month. On Dec. 8, Abdul Kader Chies, director of religious affairs in the eastern Constantine region, was shot dead as he left a mosque.

Russians launch crucial rocket

MOSCOW (AP) — A Russian rocket with three cosmonauts aboard blasted off from a snowy launch pad Saturday, heading for the Mir orbiting space station 370 kilometres above the surface of the Earth. The troubled Russian space programme has a lot riding on the mission, the 15th since the Mir was launched in 1986. "This is definitely one of the most critical flights to a long time because of doubts about their capabilities," Houston-based space expert James Oberg said in a telephone interview. The launch, delayed by two months because of a shortage of booster rockets, apparently went off without a hitch at 1:05 p.m. (10:05 GMT).

(Continued on page 5)

House committee approves budget with minor changes

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Finance Committee at the Lower House of Parliament Saturday recommended that the House approve the 1994 draft budget after introducing minor amendments that mainly propose cutting current expenditure and deleting references to the controversial sales tax.

The committee recommended that the House reduce by JD 6.5 million the estimated JD 128 million current expenditure for 1994 and argued that it was unconstitutional to include references to the proposed sales tax in the draft budget law before the tax is endorsed by the legislature.

The proposed cut in current expenditure is a "symbolic (one and) aims at having the government watch laxity in controlling expenditures," the committee said in its report to the House.

The government presented

the JD 1.487 billion draft budget to the House on Dec. 13. Finance Minister Sami Gammoh described it as the first "deficit-free" budget in the history of the Kingdom. The budget targets a growth of "no less" than 5.5 per cent in fixed prices in the gross domestic product (GDP) and aims at curbing inflation at 4.5 per cent.

In its report, which was read out by its rapporteur Deputy Sa'd Hayel Srour, the Finance Committee said the draft budget was compiled in a "balanced" way.

But it criticised the separate budgets the draft law proposes for the eight governorates in the country, saying the budgets do not accurately specify the size of expenditure in these governorates.

The committee also said that the specific allocations for public institutions should be included in the general budget, a demand raised by the 11th Parliament in 1992 and 1993.

mended that the government reverse its plans to reduce funds allocated for food subsidies.

The draft budget allocated JD 30 million for food subsidies compared to JD 36 million in 1993.

"The committee emphasises the necessity of (maintaining) the subsidies," said the report, adding that measures should be taken to ensure that subsidies reach the people who need them.

In its report, which was compiled after 17 meetings, the committee stressed the need for modernising investment, banking, financial and foreign labour legislation. It also urged better performances of the duties of government agencies such as the Employment and Development Fund and the Inspection and Control Bureau whose duties, it said, should not conflict with the Audit Bureau.

(Continued on page 5)

Residents flee Kabul

KABUL (Agencies) — Legions of people — some carrying small children and hauling belongings in rickety carts — fled the capital Saturday as warring factions observed a daylong ceasefire.

Departing U.N. officials told of seeing the hundreds of thousands of residents slogging through slush and snow leaving the city. Many of the newest refugees on the road from Kabul east to Jalalabad were wearing open sandals and little warm clothing, said U.N. spokesman in Islamabad.

The United Nations was arranging emergency supplies to be taken to Afghanistan from Pakistan. Tents, quilts, food, medicine and warm clothing were being rushed to Jalalabad, the spokesman said.

United Nations officials were also trying to arrange the evacuation of wounded after a week of brutal fighting between rival factions left hundreds dead and thousands wounded, according to a count by the city's three main hospitals.

Most foreigners fled the city, but officials of the South Korean and Saudi Arabian embassies remained behind, the U.N. spokesman said.

Four U.N. staffers along with Iranian, German and Turkish diplomats were evacuated, the spokesman said. Several aid workers also left Saturday in a giant convoy.

Saturday's truce was expected to be only temporary. It is designed to allow the wounded to travel safely to hospitals and permit civilians and diplomats to move away from the battle zones.

After the truce came into force, soldiers loyal to President Burhanuddin Rahmani and their bitter enemies in an alliance led by northern warlord General Abdul Rashid Dostum strolled along Kabul's main frontline on the broad Jardi Maiwand avenue, just south of the city centre.

Enemy fighters separated by just 100 metres of road chatted with passers-by and with refugees taking advantage of the lull to flee the frontline for safer areas after guns fell silent when the ceasefire began at 6 a.m.

A spokesman for the Hezb-e-Islami party of Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, Mr. Rahmani's arch-rival, said government jets violated the ceasefire and bombed the Hezb-e-Islami headquarters at Charasay about 25 kilometres south of Kabul in the morning.

"We will go ahead with full bombardment if the bombing is not stopped," Hezb-e-Islami spokesman Ustad Saeed said in the northwest Pakistani town of Peshawar.

Abdul Shafi: Reform talks in Tunis were successful

By Wafa Amr
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Chief Palestinian negotiator to bilateral talks with Israel, Haidar Abdul Shafi, said Saturday that the reformists' talks with the Palestinian leadership in Tunis were "in principle successful" due to the leadership's awareness to the importance of adopting democracy.

Dr. Abdul Shafi returned

from Tunis Thursday after

talks with the Palestine Libera-

tion Organisation (PLO) lead-

ership. He headed a seven-

member team representing 120

Palestinian officials and per-

sonalities who demanded demo-

cratic reforms within the PLO

structure and an end to PLO

Chairman Yasser Arafat's

"autocratic" decision-making

style.

Dr. Abdul Shafi said that

during talks with the PLO

leadership and the Executive

Committee, there has been a

reform but not all demands as stated in a statement that was signed by 120 figures and sent to the leadership last month.

"I would say, in principle, in terms of matters of the depth of awareness of our leadership, and of the people in general, that the importance of democratising the structure of the PLO and of adopting democracy in our political life as a whole have been supported very much by the leadership," Dr. Abdul Shafi told reporters.

Dr. Abdul Shafi held a meeting with around 60 reformists at the Palestine National Council (PNC) headquarters Saturday to brief them on the outcome of the team's trip to Tunis.

He said the results of the team's talks with the PLO leadership were "positive" and said: "Any talk about the failure of our mission or any impression given that it was negative would be inaccurate."

He said he felt there was response to the demands for

reform but not all demands as

stated in a statement that was

signed by 120 figures and sent

to the leadership last month.

"I don't see any reason why

reforms would not be imple-

mented. However, reform is a long process," he said.

He alluded to the fact that

Mr. Arafat remains to be the

only decision-maker, in the

PLO at this point and that the

PLO's democratic institutions

and collective leadership bodies remain inactive or dorm-

ant at this stage.

Dr. Abdul Shafi said the refor-

mists submitted the state-

ment again to the PLO lead-

ership in Tunis and they pro-

vided it with suggestions to

implement reforms and demo-

cratisation. "There was re-

sponse to our demands, and

the statement was endorsed by

the Executive Committee, but

not all demands were ac-

cepted," he added.

"Expanding the decision-

making body and collective

relations with Muscat.

Sultao Qabous has also

been involved in trying to

heal the rift between Jordan

and the other Gulf states.

Mr. Ben Alawi is the sec-

ond foreign minister from a

Gulf state to visit Jordan

this month.

(Continued on page 5)

Jordan-PLO accord is more of framework than detailed pact

By Wafa Amr

AMMAN — Jordan has made major concessions to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in return for the PLO's signature on the economic cooperation agreement signed on Friday in Amman, political observers said on Saturday.

The draft budget allocated JD 30 million for food subsidies compared to JD 36 million in 1993.

"The committee emphasises the necessity of (maintaining) the subsidies," said the report, adding that measures should be taken to ensure that subsidies reach the people who need them.

In its report, which was compiled after 17 meetings, the committee stressed the need for modernising investment, banking, financial and foreign labour legislation. It also urged better performances of the duties of government agencies such as the Employment and Development Fund and the Inspection and Control Bureau whose duties, it said, should not conflict with the Audit Bureau.

It treated the Palestinian lands as "liberated areas," or as an independent second country.

Palestinians were given a bigger share of involvement in all matters that relate to banking, trade, monetary, and finance, etc. in the Palestinian territories.

Observers noted that it appeared the Politically desirable to be politically recognised as the ruling authority during the interim period.

However, the agreement also contained ambiguities in many issues which could not be determined solely by the Jordanians and Palestinians since Israeli bilateral agreements with both sides would affect the implementability of articles included in the

Jordan-PLO accord.

Observers said that the previous eight-page draft economic agreement, which was titled "Agreement between the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation," was more comprehensive and less sensitive to Palestinian demands for symbols of independence.

The four page agreement was more of a broad framework of economic cooperation than a comprehensive economic agreement. It outlined fields of cooperation between the two sides by listing priorities and it gave more emphasis to recognition of the Palestinian authority that would be set up in the occupied territories.

It treated the Palestinian lands as "liberated areas," or as an independent second country.

Palestinians were given a bigger share of involvement in all matters that relate to banking, trade, monetary, and finance, etc. in the Palestinian territories.

Observers noted that it appeared the Politically desirable to be politically recognised as the ruling authority during the interim period.

However, the agreement also contained ambiguities in many issues which could not be determined solely by the Jordanians and Palestinians since Israeli bilateral agreements with both sides would affect the implementability of articles included in the

BASED on the distinguished relationship between the Jordanian and Palestinian people founded on cohesion and integration, in assertion of the importance of cooperation and the inevitability of creating the appropriate climate for promoting bilateral relations, especially in the economic and social fields,

and taking into consideration that the joint future construction requires the highest degrees of economic, social, scientific, technological, and educational cooperation at the official and private sector levels and the highest level of coordination between the two sides in all respects, including banks, development funds, insurance companies, investment institutions and industrial and agricultural production or in the services sector like tourism, health, education or construction.

(Continued on page 5)

Rabin does not exclude full pullout from Golan

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin Saturday did not rule out categorically a complete withdrawal from the Golan Heights in return for full peace with Syria.

Asked by military radio about his position if Syria made such an offer, Mr. Rabin replied: "I have to date spoken only of a withdrawal from the Golan, and that's my position. But if the question arises, we must discuss it."

Middle East News

Kunder: NGOs to expand activities in Gaza, West Bank

By Jim Fisher-Thompson
and
Berta Gomez

WASHINGTON — The progress made last fall in the Middle East peace talks has given a boost to relief agencies that have long operated in the region, according to James Kunder of Save the Children.

"Now that the peace process has taken some dramatic steps forward, we find there is a lot of interest on the part of large international donors in the West Bank and Gaza," he said in a January telephone interview. "Organisations like ours, that have been on the ground there for a long time, are being asked to expand their programmes and that is what we are doing."

Mr. Kunder resigned last summer as head of the U.S. Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) at USAID, and is now vice president for programme development for Save the Children, USA. The international non-governmental organisation (NGO) administers more than \$100 million worth of humanitarian and development assistance projects in the United States as well as in 35 other countries.

Of particular relevance to the West Bank and Gaza are projects that build and strengthen the indigenous institutions that will be needed after the Israeli military occupation comes to an end. The declaration of principles signed by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation at the White House last September envisioned an initial Israeli pull-out from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho, to be followed by "final status" discussions for the rest of the occupied lands.

In response to that breakthrough, Save the Children is undertaking what its literature describes as a "major, three-year programme" in the West Bank and Gaza "to provide training to national and local (development) institutions in management and administrative skills, fund-raising, project planning, monitoring and evaluation." Plans are for the programme to begin in the spring of 1994, using anticipated funds from the U.S. Agency for International Development. Save the Children has been working in the occupied territories since 1973, specialising in areas such as early childhood education; infrastructure development; water conservation; health care; and agricultural productivity.

The organisation hopes to renew donor interest towards added support to the grassroots Palestinian organisations and village committees. It hopes in particular to develop a working relationship with the Palestinian self-governing authority that will be carrying out a variety of administrative functions in the territories during the interim period, before a final status is agreed upon.

"As NGOs operating in foreign lands we should be working to put ourselves out of business," Mr. Kunder said during the interview. "It's an absolute priority for us in the NGO community to not co-work with indigenous organisations but to look forward to the time when they will take over full responsibility for their own

development programmes."

Founded in Britain after World War I, Save the Children has branches worldwide that administer food, health care, and education programmes aimed primarily at children. Save the Children, USA first began its work in the rural regions of Appalachia (Eastern U.S.) during the depression in the 1930s. It now operates development programmes in the United States through 10 field offices in both urban and rural areas.

Literature provided by Save the Children demonstrates that its programmes around the world operate on the premise that the best kind of relief is that which is sustainable over the long term — and which can ultimately be managed by the beneficiaries themselves.

In Bangladesh, for example, Save the Children has adopted a "sustainability strategy" so that the 383 Women's Savings Groups (WSG's) it supports there can be fully independent over a five-year period. The WSG's, which make loans to women for various income-generating projects, are viewed as one of the key institutions through which poor women in Bangladesh can gain access to information, services and credit.

Mr. Zanbar told the Israeli daily Yediot Acharonot the Spanish and Moroccan banks have already confirmed their

Rifkind, in Gulf to promote arms sales

MUSCAT (Agencies) — British Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind has said his government shared the concern of Gulf Arab states over Iran's purchase of Russian submarines.

"I think there is some cause for concern for Iran's decision to require up to three Kilo-class submarines from Russia," Mr. Rifkind told reporters in Muscat.

Iran took delivery to two Russian Kilo-class submarines last year and third is on order, making Tehran the first regional power to deploy submarines in the Gulf.

Mr. Rifkind met Oman's Sultan Qaboos during his visit which will also take him to Bahrain, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

Britain has traditionally had close military ties with Gulf Arab states and is currently involved in multi-billion-dollar

deals in the region.

In January last year, Oman ordered 18 British Challenger-2 main battle tanks and recovery and repair vehicles when Prime Minister John Major visited Muscat. It was due to start taking delivery late last year of four British Hawk 100 fighter-trainers and 12 Hawk 200 jet fighters.

In Saudi Arabia, Mr. Rifkind will promote the sale of 48 Tornado fighter-bombers, Western diplomatic sources said.

The sources said he will meet during his two-day visit to Saudi Arabia with Defence Minister Prince Sultan Ben Abdul Aziz to discuss a £3 billion order of Tornado planes from Britain.

The second phase, which was supposed to take effect in 1988, has been postponed by the Saudis due to budget restrictions and later the Gulf war, starting with the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

The order of 48 Tornado planes had raised the hopes of

the British manufacturer which is facing a financial crisis.

Saudi Arabia, itself facing financial difficulties due to the high cost of the 1991 Gulf war and a severe drop in the international prices of oil — the kingdom's main source of income — has declared a 20 per cent reduction in the 1994 budget.

Britain is not hiding its worries that the Saudi move could effect the execution of the contract signed in January 1993.

Rifkind in Bahrain

Mr. Rifkind arrived in Bahrain Saturday on the second leg of his regional tour. His talks with Bahraini officials will focus on strengthening ties between London and Manama, the official Gulf News Agency reported.

Israelis plan merchant bank in occupied territories

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israel's Leumi Bank has agreed with Palestinian businessmen and Spanish and Moroccan institutions to found a merchant bank in the occupied territories, a company executive said in remarks published Friday.

Moshe Zanbar, the general director of the Leumi Bank, said the new bank would boast a capital of \$40 million, equally provided by Leumi, the Central Hispano, the Commercial Bank of Morocco, and businessmen from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and from the diaspora.

Mr. Zanbar told the Israeli daily Yediot Acharonot the Spanish and Moroccan banks have already confirmed their

commitment in the deal. But the Palestinian partners, he added, "still had to get organised and create a company," which would be based in the West Bank town of Ramallah.

The Israeli banker said the negotiations took place in Morocco, Britain and Israel.

He said his bank was taking part in financing the project through granting the future establishment control over its branches in Bethlehem and Hebron in the West Bank.

New branches would be opened in various towns and the head of the new bank would be a Palestinian, Mr. Zanbar told the paper.

He said the merchant bank would specialise in dealing

with aid pledged by the international community in October to finance infrastructure of the future Palestinian autonomous regions.

The aid is expected to exceed \$2 billion and will cover the five-year interim period of Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho.

Road network

Israel has prepared a large-scale project for the construction of a road network that would link Jewish settlements in the occupied territories without passing through Palestinian areas, Israeli Television said Friday.

The Ministry of Defence

plans to build 650 kilometres of new roads in the occupied West Bank with the aim of linking Jewish areas ahead of future Palestinian autonomy, the television said.

The cost of the project has been estimated at \$700 million.

Under the autonomy accord signed by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in September, Israeli troops would have to withdraw from the Gaza Strip and Jericho. Leaving the affairs of the two areas to a Palestinian authority.

The Israeli army also began recently outlining a 17-kilometre road around the future autonomous zone of Jericho.

Religious courts fill Gaza vacuum

By Donna Abu Nasr
The Associated Press

GAZA CITY, occupied Gaza Strip — Silence falls in the dingy room where coffee hisses in blackened pots over an open fire. The qadi, or religious court judge, clears his throat and pronounces the ruling on a land dispute.

"I testify that there is no god but Allah. I declare that this document has not been forged and can be used as evidence in the case," Sheikh Ahmad Matar tells the two feuding parties of the Zeino clan.

Sheikh Matar, 50, wearing a long gray robe, was presiding at the walk-in, men's-only court held every afternoon in a large chamber. The cement walls are unpainted, the floor uneven and the seating just grubby pastel-coloured mattresses lining the sides of the room.

Sheikh Matar is not a certified judge. Indeed, he has only had five years of primary school. He was appointed four years ago by his uncle and serves mostly his own extended family, the Abu Kamille clan, which numbers about 5,000.

But self-styled sheikhs like Matar have become the Gaza Strip's most sought after arbiters, solving the problems of their clans by applying a set of Islamic laws and unwritten precedents handed down from generations of Qadis.

He noted that Save the Children operates about 70 per cent of its programmes outside the United States and explained, "We make our own decisions about whom we choose to assist, and while we seek funding from sources like the U.S. government as well as other donors, we are not an agent of the government, and this gives us a certain amount of freedom being on this side of the development fence" — USIA.

"As NGOs operating in foreign lands we should be working to put ourselves out of business," Mr. Kunder said during the interview. "It's an absolute priority for us in the NGO community to not co-work with indigenous organisations but to look forward to the time when they will take over full responsibility for their own

fear of being accused of col-laboration.

Even though the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) plans to set up a court system, officials say the qadis, especially in sensitive cases such as revenge killings and matters of family honour, This is to prevent clan feuds from erupting into street battles.

Colonel Ibrahim Muhamma, 50, planning the transfer of authority to Palestinian police once Israel's troops pull out under the PLO-Israeli autonomy accord, said police would not get involved in revenge killings, for example.

"Arab law should be applied in such instances. We would like to preserve our traditions," said Col. Muhamma.

Such laws allow killing family members to preserve family honour.

Not everybody is happy with the qadis and demand a modern system.

Othman Kassem, 55, a teacher in Beit Hanoun, 10 kilometres northeast of Gaza City, said a three-judge-panel asked him to pay a \$19,500 bribe to rule in his favour in a land dispute last year.

"Only one per cent of these qadis are just. The rest are corrupt."

Gaza's legal-community is debating what to do with the qadis, who filled a vacuum created when Palestinian police and court officials were ordered to sever ties with the Israeli-administered court system during the intifada that began in 1987.

Israeli military courts still handle some civil cases involving land and insurance, for example, or matters that involve Israelis. But Palestinians try to avoid Israeli courts for

writing at a woman with a remark such as, "hey, beautiful," warrants a fine of \$2,600 or the man's eye will be gouged out. Grabbing a woman in the street warrants a fine of \$6,500 or the man's arm will be cut off.

Rape warrants large fine or the rapist spreads a carpet from his house to the victim's house. He then strips and rides an oiled camel to her house. Every part of his body that touches the oil should be cut off.

Beating a wife at home with the windows closed warrants a fine that is determined by the severity of the injuries. The fine is quadrupled if he beats her in the street.

The man's eye should be gouged out, or he should pay her family the equivalent of \$2,600.

For rape, Sheikh Kafarnah's punishment is quite severe: The man should spread a carpet from his house to the victim's house. He then should strip and ride an oiled camel to her house, carrying a white flag. Any part of the assailant's body that touches the oil should be cut off.

Or, he might save himself by paying off the family.

"Everything can be solved with money," said the judge.

The punishments meted out by traditional religious courts differ sharply from the prison sentences or fines more common in Israel and the West.

Murder: A fine of \$91,000 to the victim's family or half to one-third the amount plus a bride to bear a son to replace the victim.

Theft: Fine of four times the value of the stolen object plus \$13 for every step he took from his house to the location of the theft.

Sex and domestic crimes: Winking at a woman with a remark such as, "hey, beautiful," warrants a fine of \$2,600 or the man's eye will be gouged out. Grabbing a woman in the street warrants a fine of \$6,500 or the man's arm will be cut off.

Rape warrants large fine or the rapist spreads a carpet from his house to the victim's house. He then strips and rides an oiled camel to her house. Every part of his body that touches the oil should be cut off.

Beating a wife at home with the windows closed warrants a fine that is determined by the severity of the injuries. The fine is quadrupled if he beats her in the street.

Clashes kill eight people in Turkey

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey (R) — A baby and its parents were killed in southeast Turkey when their home was hit by mortar fire during clashes between Turkish troops and Kurdish guerrillas, officials said Friday. In another incident on Friday, five rebels of the separatist Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) died in a gunbattle with troops in Tunceli province, they said. In the incident in Cizre town of Sirnak province, the rebels attacked a tank unit stationed just outside the town on Thursday night and troops returned the fire, provincial officials said. Four other people were wounded and three houses were heavily damaged by the shells and fire. But some Cizre residents told local journalists that the mortars were fired from the army unit. There was no independent confirmation of their version. More than 10,500 people have been killed in Turkey since 1984 when the PKK launched a violent fight for a separate Kurdish state in the region.

Cyprus seeks NATO support for scheme

NICOSIA (AFP) — The Cypriot government has appealed to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) to support its proposal for demilitarisation of the island, currently divided into Greek and Turkish-speaking sectors, the Cyprus News Agency reported. Government spokesman Yinkakis Casoulides said President Glafcos Clerides had sent a letter to the NATO secretariat asking that the proposal be distributed to leaders at the organisation's Brussels summit opening Monday. Mr. Clerides last month called for demilitarisation and the dissolution of the armed forces of the two communities after the withdrawal of some 30,000 Turkish mainland troops who have occupied the northern third of Cyprus since 1974.

Iran seizes 112 satellite dishes

TEHRAN (AFP) — Authorities in western Iran have seized 112 television satellite dishes destined for Iranian consumers in a raid near the Turkish border, and arrested several people, newspapers said Saturday. Possession of satellite dishes, which can pick up foreign television channels, is forbidden in Iran. But the regulations are often flouted and a lucrative illegal trade in the antennas began two years ago, with the contraband supplies coming from Gulf Arab states and Turkey.

Coptic Pope prays for Palestinians

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt's Coptic Christian pope prayed Friday for an independent state for the Palestinians and peace in Bosnia, Somalia and Afghanistan. "We pray for the Palestinians so that God will help them in creating a sovereign state to include all of them," Pope Shenouda III said in an improvised speech to thousands of Copts celebrating their Christmas. The mass was carried live on Egypt's government-owned television and attended by representatives of President Hosni Mubarak, the cabinet, political parties and leading Muslim scholars. In an era of discord caused by extremist violence, it was an attempt to reflect unity among members of Egypt's two main religions.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN: Dr. Fakhri Tawfiq Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 622361
American Church Tel. 630451 Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772561
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 652124
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 682428
German-speaking Evangelical congregation Tel. 684195
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazarene Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Clouds will appear at different altitudes and will be south-easterly moderate in winds, will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

Min./Max. temp.

Amman 10° / 16°

Aqaba 10° / 17°

Deir el-Zor 11° / 24°

Jordan Valley 10° / 17°

AMMAN: Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate

EMERGENCIES

AMMAN: Fire Brigades 701222
Police 643641
Rescue Police 102-621111, 671777
Police 643641
Ambulance 643641
Blood Bank 771421
Highway Police 643642
Traffic Police 643643
Public Security Department 643642
Hotel Complaints 643643
Price Complaints 643643
Water and Sewerage Complaints 643643
Amman Municipality Complaints 643643
Telephone Information (Judiciary assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 101/129
Central Amman Telephone Repair 623101
Abdullah Telephones Repairs 623101
Jordan Telecom 773411
Radaf Anatolia 7734



Secretary-general of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ahmad Khayel (left), Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid



(centre) and Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Al Abbadi Saturday attend a celebration at King Abdullah Ben

Al Hussein Mosque, in observance of Israa and Mi'raj (Petra photo)

Jordan marks Israa and Mi'raj; minister of Awqaf says occasion should teach lessons

AMMAN (Petra) — Under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein, the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Saturday organised a major religious celebration at King Abdullah Ben Al Hussein Mosque in Amman, in observance of Israa and Mi'raj, the day in which Prophet Mohammad ascended to heaven.

Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Al Abbadi, who deputised for His Majesty at the ceremony, delivered an address outlining the lessons that should be learned from the occasion.



Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Mohamed Adwan Saturday sees off a group of

Japanese tourists who were on a visit to Jordan and the region (Petra photo)

Japanese tourists' visit deemed good example for future of tourism

AMMAN (Petra) — Tourism and Antiquities Minister Mohammad Adwan Saturday saw off a group of 230 Japanese tourists who had paid a seven-day visit to Jordan and voiced his hope that the group would open the door for larger groups of Japanese to visit Jordan and bolster Japanese-Jordanian ties.

Noting that the Japanese government has pledged to finance some of the Kingdom's tourism projects, the minister said that work was under way for arrangements to lay the infrastructure for these schemes in sites at the Dead Sea and Aqaba.

According to Dr. Adwan,

"we have overcome this problem and arrangements are under way to operate chartered flights by Royal Jordanian aircraft from Tokyo to Amman and vice versa."

Dr. Adwan said that at least six million Japanese tourists leave their country annually, and it is hoped that a reasonable proportion of these numbers would visit Jordan.

Mr. Tanaka, counselor minister at the Japanese embassy in Amman was also present during the minister's speech.

The trip was organised by Nahas Travel and Tourism who chartered a Royal Jordanian flight from the city of Nagoya, in Japan, to Amman.

NEWS IN BRIEF

King confers medal on former minister

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday conferred the Jordanian Independence Medal of the First Order on Mr. Nasri Atallah, the former Minister of Tourism secretary general. The honour was in recognition of Mr. Atallah's long and distinguished services in the Kingdom. Mr. Atallah has resigned his post of Jan. 1, 1994.

Prince Faisal pursues studies in U.K.

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Ben Al Hussein left for the United Kingdom Saturday to take a course with the British Royal Air Force, in pursuit of his studies in air defence, and military sciences. This course will last for one year.

Princess Basma opens clinic

SALT (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Haya Bint al Hussein Saturday opened a medical clinic for the General Union of Workers in land transport and mechanics in Al Akad Valley in Salt City. Princess Basma, who is the honorary president of the union, toured the various sections of the clinic to get familiarised with its equipment. With the inauguration of this clinic, the number of the union's clinics rises to 10. They are located in various areas in Amman, Zarqa, Madaba, Irbid, Karak and Maan. The union is planning to open another clinic in Naour. Saturday's inauguration ceremony was attended by Labour Minister Khaled Eghzawi, Balq Governor Eid Al Qatarneh, Secretary General of the Jordanian Federation of Labour Unions Khaled Shreim, union President Ibrahim Al Ajarmeh and other officials.

Kirghiz minister arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of higher education in the newly

independent Kirghiz Republic, Kakiev Chikovitch, is due here Sunday at the head of an official delegation on an eight-day visit to Jordan. The guest will meet his Jordanian counterpart and other government ministers and officials to discuss bilateral cooperation in educational fields. The minister, accompanied by a number of officials, will also visit educational centres and tourist sites.

Holiday observed

AMMAN (Petra) — Amman Governor Talaat Nawaiseh has ordered the closure of all liquor shops, night clubs and bars on the occasion of Al Israa Wal Miraj Sunday, a public holiday in Jordan. The ban extends from Saturday evening until Monday morning.

Japanese official arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Hiroshi Fukuda is due here Sunday, across the King Hussein bridge, from the occupied Arab territories on a four-day visit to Jordan. He is scheduled to hold talks with government officials and visit a number of archaeological sites.

Cabinet endorses new financial system

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council Ministers Saturday endorsed the country's new financial system which was described as encompassing measures to cater to the administrative reforms and to enhance the government's decentralisation policies. The new system, which is also designed to plug loopholes in the old system, comprises 11 chapters, tackling such matters like definitions, principles, and basis of all matters related to accountancy, revenues, expenditure, loans, securities, financial assets, debt management, financial control and general guidelines pertaining to accountancy errors.

Ghali regrets death of peacekeeper

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian government has received a cable of sympathy from U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali over the death of a member of the Jordanian contingent serving with the U.N. peacekeeping force in former Yugoslavia. The U.N. chief expressed deep grief over the death of Sergeant Hamed Taher Mitreb and voiced his appreciation for the vital role played by the Jordanian contingent in the peacekeeping task in Yugoslavia.

Jordan to attend conference on culture

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan is to take part in a conference of Arab ministers of culture, due to open in Beirut on Jan. 15. Discussions during the four-day conference will cover Arab culture and bolstering pan-Arab cultural cooperation. Jordan will be represented at the meetings by a delegation headed by Dr. Amin Mahmoud, minister of culture.

Jordan to attend ministers of sports meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan is to take part in the meetings of the Executive Bureau of the Arab ministers of sports and youth, due to open in Cairo on Jan. 29. Jordan is represented at the meeting by Minister of Youth Abdullah Oweidat.

First session of tawjih ends

AMMAN (Petra) — The first session of the secondary school certificate examination (tawjih) ended Saturday. A total of 78,901 male and female students sat for the examinations in the literary, scientific, commercial, agricultural, industrial, nursing and hotel management courses.

Amman stock market shoots up

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Trading in the Amman stock market, arguably the best barometer for investors' mood, shot up Saturday in a continuing upwards trend, but it was too early to judge whether the climb was a direct result of the signing of the Jordan-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) economic agreement on Friday, bankers and brokers said.

Shares worth JD 10.75 million changed hands during the two sessions of trading Saturday, compared to JD 6.9 million on Wednesday and JD 13.5 million for the entire first week of the New Year.

"The upwards trend remains in the market now and it could be safely expected to continue for a few weeks during which speculators would be adopting positions," said a broker.

The focus of Saturday's trading was on stocks of commercial banks which are ex-

pected to reopen their branches in the occupied West Bank soon, in line with the Jordan-PLO agreement.

Final figures for the day showed that 1,180,000 bank shares worth JD 4,475 million were traded.

The banking official noted that the accord was formalised only Friday and it would be some time before investors assess the impact of the agreement on the Jordanian economy.

"By and large, people know that the agreement is positive for both sides and could add a new impetus to Jordanian and Palestinian economic activities," said the banker.

"This will create speculators' interest in those companies holding out promises in the occupied territories."

Firms which have already made arrangements on the ground in the occupied territories, such as agency and marketing arrangements and production expansion, are expected to be the first target of AFM investors.

"As it is there is a marked interest in the stock of such companies, but it has not reached a point where investors are exactly plunging headlong into investing in them," said the banking official.

in the occupied territories, said the broker.

"But a major part of the uncertainties has been removed by the signing of the accord itself," added the broker.

In an annual report early this month, AFM Director-General Omaya Touqan said "political developments" in the second half of 1993 had led to a marked decline in trading in the market. It was an implicit reference to the Sept. 13 agreement between Israel and the PLO.

The agreement brought in a spate of uncertainties to investors and the delay in the formalisation of an accord on Jordanian-Palestinian economic cooperation brought in further scepticism into the market.

The decline in the market since September was clearly visible. The first seven months of the year accounted for 75 per cent of the total annual volume of JD 969 million.

Saturday's focus on the banking sector was a clear sign of interest sparked by the Jordan-PLO accord.

"That is a distinct trend in the market and, as we get along, possibilities of Jordanian companies expanding their activities and markets to the occupied territories would be more clear," said the banker.

"This will create speculators' interest in those companies holding out promises in the occupied territories."

Firms which have already made arrangements on the ground in the occupied territories, such as agency and marketing arrangements and production expansion, are expected to be the first target of AFM investors.

"As it is there is a marked interest in the stock of such companies, but it has not reached a point where investors are exactly plunging headlong into investing in them," said the banking official.

Jordanian-PLO economic agreement in the best interest of the two peoples

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Cabinet Saturday discussed an agreement on economic cooperation signed here Friday by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the Jordanian government.

The economic agreement covers a broad framework for cooperation in the fields of banking and money, trade, labour force, investments, tourism, customs and tariffs, as well as security and border issues and refugees.

A statement after the meeting said that the Cabinet expressed deep satisfaction with the conclusion of the agreement which, it said, came in the best interest of the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples.

Meanwhile, Farouk Kadoumi, PLO political department chief who signed the

accord with Deputy Prime Minister Saeed Al Tal Saturday, said that the agreement followed in-depth discussions, in a spirit characterised by frankness, clarity and brotherly feelings on both sides.

Speaking shortly before leaving Amman, Mr. Kadoumi said that the signed document clearly reflects the two sides' common interests which should be well protected.

We hope that with the signing of the document, future relations would be based on sound and solid foundations, proportionate with world developments resulting from the creation of world economic blocs and the political challenges looming ahead, said Mr. Kadoumi.

He said that the two sides

Al Amal centre's regulations to ensure continuous flow of income

AMMAN (J.T.) — Al Amal Cancer Centre which is being set up near the University of Jordan in Amman is drawing up a set of regulations which would ensure continued in-

come for the centre which plans to offer services to needy patients free of charge.

A spokesman for the national task force which is in charge of establishing the cancer centre noted that a so-called poor patient fund would be set up to raise funds for the treatment of needy cancer patients and several investment projects would be initiated in order to ensure income that would cover the cost of running the centre, expected at JD 3 million annually.

According to the regulations, the centre of revenues come from the cost of the medical services annual subscriptions of the sponsor and the extra charges which the authorities plan to impose on cigarettes and other substances and materials which are thought to be the direct cause of cancer, in addition to the investments made by the

national committee in charge of the centre, government aid and contributions mainly coming from the public in Jordan and foreign institutions.

The regulations note that the centre will be providing diagnostic and treatment of various kinds of cancer diseases and will also educate the public on means to prevent it.

According to the spokesman, the centre will set up a national register aimed at providing statistics about the number and type of cancer cases in Jordan and their geographical and demographic distributions.

In addition, the centre will provide training and research work in the field of cancer, with a view to stemming the killer disease. Doctors and nurses from universities will benefit from the services and training courses at the centre, according to the spokesman.

WHAT'S GOING ON EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition by artist Sadik Kwaish entitled "Talismans" at Baladna Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition on the 100th anniversary of the death of French novelist Guy De Maupassant at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of Iraqi books at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by a number of Jordanian artists entitled "The Sixth Exhibition — Samples From The Contemporary Jordanian Art '93" at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition "Prints and Drawings of Fakhreinissa Zeid" (1915-1991) until the 15th of January '94 at Darat al Funun of the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation. Also showing the "Permanent" Exhibition. (Tel. 643251/2).

Opinion & Analysis

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation

Established 1974

Chairman of the Board of Directors:

MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:

MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:

GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices

Jordan Press Foundation

University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 6671716, 670144

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Faximile: 696183

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Sanctions — an obsession

ON MARCH 3, 1991 Iraq and the U.S. signed a ceasefire agreement in which Iraq undertook to implement all relevant U.N. Security Council resolutions. Since then and following numerous visits by U.N. inspectors, involving a great deal of hassle and harassment, Iraq has apparently fulfilled its pledge. Yet the U.S. and its allies in the Security Council still demand that Iraq comply with all the resolutions, including those passed after the ceasefire agreement was signed. What the U.S. demands now is an Iraqi implementation of Resolution 688, passed in April 1991, that calls on that country to end repression of the Iraqi people in the north and south.

The Iraqi deputy prime minister, Tareq Aziz, is expected to meet U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali in New York later this month to discuss the lifting of the sanctions imposed on his country that have so far cost Iraq heavily in terms of human suffering and in revenues. Washington, in particular, has moved to make any deal between Iraq and the U.N. impossible. While in the past Security Council members used to protest Iraq's non-compliance with the dictates of U.N. weapon inspectors, some of them, especially the U.S., are now using the old-new pretext: human rights.

It is either evil or gullible to expect a country under siege with two insurrections in most parts of its land to respect human rights. While we do not, of course, condone any human rights abuses under any circumstances, we nevertheless believe that the West, in this case, is simply making it impossible for the Iraqis to do what even the U.S. wants them to do, in a continuing bid to maintain the sanctions. Iraq, on its part, accuses some Gulf Arab countries of paying "bribes here and there to stop the escalating movement towards lifting the unjust siege on the people of Iraq," as the Iraqi president has put it. Newsreports have suggested recently that the U.S. and its allies are reluctant to lift the sanctions on Iraq lest this lead to further decrease in oil prices and consequently to cancellation of huge arms contracts signed between the West — the U.S. and Britain in particular — and the rich Gulf countries — Saudi Arabia and Kuwait especially.

This state of affairs is of course not conducive for either future stability in the region or the welfare of the Iraqi people, in the north, south and centre. The continued suffering of the Iraqi people might not bring down its leadership, as the U.S. and its allies in the region hope, but it will certainly create more bitterness in the relations among peoples of the region and plant the seeds for more conflicts in the future.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AFTER THREE days of arduous discussions, the Jordanian and the Palestinian delegations reached agreement on economic cooperation, thus paving the ground for fruitful and successful relationship in the coming stage, said Al Ra'i daily. This is a major achievement for both sides and is considered as a good step to consolidate their united stand, it added. It has put an end to rumours, suspicions and question marks concerning the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship, continued the daily. Though the agreement document has not been published, one can understand from the press conference which announced that it serves as an expression of the strong and brotherly ties between the two peoples on the two sides of the river, and one which has lasted for so long as a unique relationship and a special bondage, the paper said. There is no doubt that the agreement provides for solutions to the outstanding issues in the fields of economy, education, health trade and others, it said. The paper noted in particular to the question of reopening of Jordanian banks in the West Bank, closed since the 1967 war and said that the agreement has now opened the way for this procedure and paved the ground for trade exchanges. At the same time, said the paper, this agreement has bolstered the Jordanian-Palestinian stand at the peace process and could give it some momentum towards helping the Palestinians attain their aspiration and their homeland.

COMMENTING ON the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement, a columnist in Al Dustour said that economic ties agreed on between the two sides constitute the vital link between them, people across the River Jordan at the moment. The document, signed by the Jordanian and the PLO representatives is bound to save the Palestinian autonomy rule from any attempts by Israel to impose hegemony on the Palestinians and their economy, continued the writer Sultan Al Hattab. Indeed, the Jordanian-Palestinian coordination constitutes an umbrella for the establishment of a Palestinian national entity and later the independent Palestinian state, said Hattab. We hope that this agreement, concluded in Amman Friday, would open the way now for a greater measure of coordination among Arab countries, not only those involved in the Arab-Israel peace process but rather all the Arab countries, said the writer. Such coordination, he added, would lead to solidarity and unity which have been lacking for so long in the Arab World. He said that Arab coordination is a must in the face of Israel's economic, political and military expansions.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

Budget deficit — more than meets the eye

THE CENTRAL government's budget for 1994 was built in a way to show that domestic revenues will exceed current expenditure by JD 147.3 million. Domestic revenue of JD 1275.7 million, the budget makers suggested, is sufficient to cover 113 per cent of the current expenditure of JD 1,128.4 million.

Many commentators and columnists praised this achievement of the Kingdom. The financial position of the treasury, they thought, became comfortable to the extent that it warrants increasing some expenses, such as another round of salary increase, to improve the standard of living of government staffers. (The latest increase was decided and paid in May 1993). Increasing salaries became a reasonable idea since the prime minister and the ministers decided to increase their own salaries by 50 per cent, to improve their life styles. Understandably, ministers feel embarrassed when faced with their hardpressed staff and the tax payers.

The reality of the budget is quite different. The surplus of the domestic revenue and its high coverage of current expenses are the product of budget engineering and creative accounting. It is simply window dressing. It is a myth.

To prove our claim we should uncover the fact that the current budget did not include all the cost of interest which will accrue to the external lenders in 1994. Such interest is definitely a current expense, whether the government will pay it cash or will recognise it in the books and request capitalisation and rescheduling. Such capitalisation or rescheduling is not but a new long-term loan to settle a due commitment.

Organisers of the budget did not take this fact into account. They simply listed among current expenditures the sum of JD 125 million for this purpose, which is the amount payable cash during 1994 to London Club creditors and to other lenders whose debts are not subject to rescheduling. The other

part of interest, which belongs to Paris Club creditors and which will hopefully be rescheduled, was simply ignored, while it should appear as a current expenditure and the financing in the form of rescheduling should appear among the sources in the financing section of the budget.

We roughly estimate that the total interest due on Jordan's foreign debt during 1994 is at least JD 350 million, of which only JD 125 million was actually recognised and listed in the budget, while the balance of JD 225 million remained off-budget, despite the fact that it is a real expense of 1994 financed by fresh borrowing.

Upon correction of the budget to include their real cost of interest, total current expenditure will rise to the level of JD 1553.4 million. The ratio of coverage of the current expenses by domestic revenue will drop from 113 per cent to 82 per cent, and the alleged surplus will be turned to a deficit of JD 75 million. This deficit will be covered from expected foreign aid. In this case, the budget will no longer be balanced, as originally claimed, and all capital expenditure will be covered from external borrowing and foreign aid. The budget is in deficit by any definition.

To calculate the actual deficit in the draft budget of 1994, you can add up all or part of the following items, according to the definition of deficit you like to apply:

JD 225 million interest cost not accounted for JD 66 million deficit of the second section. JD 300 million new loans and re-scheduling (not including all interest). JD 130 million foreign aid most of which not committed yet.

It is of course good to be creative in constructing the budget, provided the real facts are well-known to all decision makers in the government and Parliament, otherwise they may be led to make the wrong decisions, such as raising the salaries and allowing the deficit to become even worse.

New world order — towards new spheres of influence

By Charles William Maynes

WASHINGTON — After a year of foreign policy setbacks, the Clinton administration is changing personalities, not its policy. That is wrong. What is needed is a redefinition of goals. Replacing Secretary of Defense Les Aspin with Bobby Ray Inman will do little to help the administration deal with a torrent of international problems.

In a period of tight budgets and declining military force levels, the administration has avoided the task of matching resources with commitments. Its one announced attempt — "enlargement of democracy" through free market, democratic countries — seemed more an invitation to endless new responsibilities than an effort to impose limits on U.S. commitments.

There is an alternative: call it benign realpolitik.

It would build on the absence of ideological conflict among the great powers. It would capitalise on the spreading trend of democratisation. And it would recognise a hard reality of international politics: Even a superpower will exhaust itself if it tries to police the globe.

Russia is destined to remain the strongest state in the former Soviet Union, just as the United States will remain the strongest country in the Western Hemisphere. Inevitably, both powers will exercise authority in their spheres of influence.

What is not inevitable is that either will agree to make its use of power more benign by subjecting it to an international standard of law and morality.

Past attempts to build a world order based on spheres of influence have seemed unprincipled and immoral. Richard Nixon and Henry Kissinger were denounced for appearing to support such a world system.

The world could become more comfortable with an order based on traditional spheres of influence if several great powers were democratic or on the path to democracy, and if the dominant powers in each region agreed to exercise authority in accordance with an international process.

The logical candidates in Europe would be America, the European Union and a democratic Russia acting together through the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. But for many reasons, including American opposition, Europe has not developed a coherent foreign policy and security identity.

After Russia's parliamentary elections, in which the ultra-nationalists and Communists made gains, many are calling for renewed cold war measures to contain Russia. Until it is clear that Moscow's direction is not reactionary, the West must carefully calibrate its acceptance of Russia.

But until the Clinton administration outlines a vision of Europe in which a democratic Russia can enjoy a leading voice, the United States will only fuel Russian paranoia. No matter what Moscow does, Russia never seems to be in Europe.



As for Asia, China and Japan and America will play the major security role. China is not democratic, but its energies will continue to focus on the problems of feeding a billion people — if the United States does not isolate China through trade sanctions.

The Security Council must be reformed, because its composition deprives it of legitimacy in several parts of the world.

Major powers such as Germany, Japan and India, with influence on international peace and security at least as great as that of some of the permanent members, have no permanent voice. Whole regions, such as Africa and Latin America, are often not represented by their larger members.

Reform of the Security Council must proceed with the goal of creating a security community, one that the major powers will strive to defend because it reflects their interests.

The Security Council must make sure that no state enjoys permanent membership unless it is prepared to make significant financial and security contributions to the international community. Germany and Japan should be expected to participate in noncombat peacekeeping operations. India, Nigeria and Brazil should expect to increase their financial contribution.

This new security community would recognise the special role of major states in their own region. During the Reagan administration, France and Mexico together attempted to challenge the United States in Central America and failed.

The West will fail if it attempts to challenge Russia in areas in its legitimate sphere of influence. India, Nigeria and South Africa will play disproportionate roles in their spheres of influence.

Because major powers are no longer divided by ideology, and because most states now try to enhance their national power through economic development rather than territorial conquest, the international community has the scope to

press the large states to exercise their power in accordance with international norms. The United States, for example, probably will not be able to end the disorder in Haiti without military action. Yet a lack of clarity about America's national interests in this region paralyses action.

A policy of benign realpolitik would not let a band of thugs create chaos so close to American shores. Yet any military action could, from the outset, involve monitoring by the United Nations and the Organisation of American States of the use of U.S. power on the island.

Idealists and proponents of strict equality among U.N. members would object to a world based on spheres of influence, however benign. But the truth is that if anyone is to end the disorder in Haiti, it will have to be the United States. And if someone is to end the fighting between Azerbaijanis and Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh, it will be Russia.

Great powers will not always take action. The world may have to live with disorder at several points on the globe and will have to do the best it can through dialogue, mediation and humanitarian assistance.

If force is to be used, however, it would be more realistic to look to the great powers for action than to the United Nations.

In selecting new permanent members (which will not have the veto), the United Nations must make sure that no state enjoys permanent membership unless it is prepared to make significant financial and security contributions to the international community. Germany and Japan should be expected to participate in noncombat peacekeeping operations. India, Nigeria and Brazil should expect to increase their financial contribution.

This new security community would recognise the special role of major states in their own region. During the Reagan administration, France and Mexico together attempted to challenge the United States in Central America and failed.

The West will fail if it attempts to challenge Russia in areas in its legitimate sphere of influence. India, Nigeria and South Africa will play disproportionate roles in their spheres of influence.

Because major powers are no longer divided by ideology, and because most states now try to enhance their national power through economic development rather than territorial conquest, the international community has the scope to

There may still be time for talking

By Katherine Rath

PARIS — Nine months ago, a friend arrived sobbing at my door in Algiers. I watched him as he told me the government was forcing him to strip away the symbol of his faith. From now on, even the most devout Muslims would have to shave off their beards of risk brutal abuse from the police. Beards, I thought. Were they really this important?

When I had arrived in glittering white Algiers, a capital city superbly framed in green and flowered hill-sides against an immense blue sky, I could not have imagined what the beauty would come to hide. Only three years before, Algeria had seemed to be a bright start of liberalism in the Arab World.

In April, a few days after the encounter at my door, I watched police corralling men with beards and tracking them off to the station, where their names were taken down. Their simple cotton Muslim gowns were torn and their beards roughly shaved away.

That day, a cousin of my friend came home badly bruised, his face bleeding. He said the police had forced him to shave off his beard with a piece of plastic and had laughed as he scraped away. He was a grocer, not politically involved.

Not involved, that is, except as a practicing Muslim and sympathiser with a party — the Islamic Salvation Front — that was winning parliamentary elections when the government annulled them in January 1992. The front had campaigned to replace a regime that continues to be widely despised as corrupt, incompetent and western-inspired.

Despite its status as an OPEC member, the quality of life in Algeria is often worse than in Egypt. Shortages of coffee, bread and sugar are frequent. Prices have risen sharply in the past year but salaries are frozen. Unemployment is estimated at 25 per cent.

I set out to try to understand the Islamic trend. I watched hope become tension, tension turn to anger and anger burst out in violence.

The sound of gunshots in the night has now become routine, along with the curfew; being out after 11:30 p.m. can mean death. In fact, the streets of Algiers are empty after 8 p.m. — which is most unusual for a Mediterranean city. Restaurants are virtually empty at night.

In Germany recently, I interviewed the leader in exile of the Islamic Salvation Front, Rabah Kebir. His version of the general picture matched

Europe back on front burner at White House

By Charles Aldinger
Reuter

WASHINGTON — Economic woes and security concerns in the former Soviet Union are tightening post-cold war bonds between Washington and NATO and could slow a Clinton administration turn towards Asia, according to analysts.

That assessment comes as President Clinton prepares to temporarily put his drive to embrace Asia-Pacific nations on a back burner and attend a NATO alliance summit in Brussels next week. He will also visit Moscow and Prague.

Private analysts say financial and political problems in Russia and security concerns of new East European democracies are pressing Mr. Clinton to reexamine the importance of Europe to U.S. security despite the collapse of the Soviet war machine.

"We're certainly not going to turn our backs on Asia where the future lies," said Raymond Garthoff, a foreign policy expert at Washington's Brookings Institution. "But instability there could pose very sudden problems, including nuclear ones, for us and our NATO allies."

Garthoff pointed to reluctance by Ukraine, for example, to dismantle and get rid of all former Soviet nuclear weapons on its soil in part because of fears about Russian ambitions and a desire to get more money from the West.

Mr. Clinton stressed at an Asia-Pacific economic summit meeting in Seattle last November that the United States would become much more actively engaged in the region.

Mr. Christopher also said in a speech at the University of Washington just before the Seattle meeting:

"As we approach the next century, America must once again look West — West to Asia and West to our Pacific future... Today, no region in the world is more important to the United States than Asia."

He and others agreed that Asia is now a more important trading partner than Europe.



Accord more of framework

(Continued from page 1)
and infrastructure like roads, electricity, water, energy and telecommunications.

In affirmation of the two sides' desire in laying down effective principles and foundations for facilitating the free passage of workers and flow of capital as well as commodities and products and services, the two sides discussed a draft agreement on economic cooperation between the government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation and have decided that the draft constitutes an appropriate, beneficial and acceptable framework for bilateral cooperation.

In particular, the two sides agreed on the following:

The two sides will draft a protocol that determines the body authorised, jointly, to organise the reopening of Jordanian bank branches.

After the two sides have reviewed the decision of the (PLO) Executive Committee in its meeting on Jan. 3, 1994 which approved the reopening of Jordanian bank branches which were closed as a result of the occupation, and in light of the discussions between them, the two sides have agreed that Jordanian bank branches which were closed in 1967 be reopened, that the CJB is the body authorised by both sides to organise the reopening of branches and monitoring of their activities and supervise them in accordance with existing Jordanian laws, regulations and instructions, and (the 'both sides agree') to cooperate in doing that with the Palestinian institutions concerned, and to submit to the relevant body in Palestine reports on activities of these branches.

This agreement will continue to be valid until the Palestinian monetary authority is established.

A joint monetary and financial committee will be set up to cooperate in both countries in order to agree on financial, monetary and banking policies during the Palestinian interim period, and until the central Palestinian monetary authority is established.

The two sides also agree to cooperate in order to maintain the value of the Jordanian dinar and exchange rates and manner of dealing with these currencies.

The Jordanian dinar will continue to be used in Palestine until the Palestinian currency is issued, in addition to the utilisation of other international and Arab currencies.

The two sides will cooperate on studying the establishment of specialised banks which the joint committee considers fit to participate in the fields of industry, housing and agriculture.

The two sides establish a joint committee to encourage the commercial exchange of national agricultural and industrial products between the two countries and taking measures necessary:

To raise the volume of trade between the two countries to a level to be determined later in a separate protocol.

B. To study the establishment of a joint free zone in the Jordan Valley for joint transit trade, industry and investment.

C. The two sides agree, during the interim period, to facilitate the movement of Palestinian trade as well as transport and storage and shipping for the purpose of re-exporting Palestinian goods to Arab states and to the rest of the world.

D. To rebuild the Prince Abdullah Bridge simultaneously with the expansion

and development of other bridges and would not be operational except by joint agreement in order to facilitate movement of persons, goods, vehicles, and both sides study the possibility of adding other bridges to facilitate the processes of transportation and crossing.

The two sides agree to study setting up joint projects in tourism areas and to cooperate in organising group tourist trips and to encourage and develop the tourism industry and to promote it and to study the possibility of establishing a joint tourist transportation company.

The two sides have agreed to draft a protocol which will organise the exchange of labour force and labour rights which include social security.

The two sides will draft a special agreement on encouraging joint investment and its protection and to provide all necessary facilities for the creation of an incentive environment for the private sector which would enable it to set up large and medium size investment projects and to encourage Jordanian and Palestinian capital abroad to participate in these projects.

The two sides agree to encourage the private sector in both countries to participate in construction activities and in implementing housing and infrastructure projects (electricity, energy, water, telecommunications).

The two sides agree to exchange expertise in the field of agricultural development through the exchange of scientific studies and technical skills and expansion in the establishment of joint scientific centres.

The two sides agree to encourage the private sector in setting up a joint company in the free zone area (Jordan Valley) to store, freeze and market and process agricultural products (vegetables, fruit, animal products and marine wealth).

The two sides have agreed on close cooperation and coordination in the field of promoting infrastructure (electricity, energy, water, telecommunications) in order to serve the interest of both through the concerned bodies in both countries in order to put forth the best technical means which would achieve this end.

The two sides agree on coordination to put forward a mechanism to activate joint efforts and to call the six committees which have emanated from the joint Jordanian-Palestinian Higher Committee for a meeting as soon as possible in order to coordinate and discuss the issues of Jerusalem, economic cooperation, water, refugees, security and borders, and laws, provided the committee's reports would be submitted to the joint Palestinian-Jordanian Higher Committee.

The two sides agree on continued coordination and consultation within the framework of the peace process in a way which will achieve joint interests of both the Jordanian and Palestinian sides as well as the Arab side in their effort to arrive at a just, comprehensive and permanent peace and in line with Jordanian and Palestinian interests and secures the achievement of the Arab Palestinian people of their legitimate national rights, including their rights to return to their homeland, to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state on their national soil with Jerusalem as its capital.

Those in favour have been even less impressive. Most banally, they have celebrated an extension in "choice"—the most corrupted word in the future care of the children.

The reaction to these three biology stories has not been impressive. Those with doubts about the Brave New Biological World have tended either to emit variations of the expletive "yuk" or to miss the point, as did Virginia Bottomley when she questioned the ethics of making a 59-year-old pregnant on the irrelevant grounds of the future care of the children.

The two sides agree on continued coordination and consultation within the framework of the peace process in a way which will achieve joint interests of both the Jordanian and Palestinian sides as well as the Arab side in their effort to arrive at a just, comprehensive and permanent peace and in line with Jordanian and Palestinian interests and secures the achievement of the Arab Palestinian people of their legitimate national rights, including their rights to return to their homeland, to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state on their national soil with Jerusalem as its capital.

Those in favour have been even less impressive. Most banally, they have celebrated an extension in "choice"—the most corrupted word in the

future care of the children.

The two sides establish a joint committee to encourage the commercial exchange of national agricultural and industrial products between the two countries and taking measures necessary:

To raise the volume of trade between the two countries to a level to be determined later in a separate protocol.

B. To study the establishment of a joint free zone in the Jordan Valley for joint transit trade, industry and investment.

C. The two sides agree, during the interim period, to facilitate the movement of Palestinian trade as well as transport and storage and shipping for the purpose of re-exporting Palestinian goods to Arab states and to the rest of the world.

D. To rebuild the Prince Abdullah Bridge simultaneously with the expansion

Residents flee battered Kabul

(Continued from page 1)

A few scattered explosions were heard shortly after dawn in Kabul but they quickly died down and the city saw its first day of peace since Gen. Dostum launched his grab for power with a blistering artillery bombardment at dawn on New Year's Day.

In the city centre, Kabul's money market was in flames, as were many other buildings. Streets were littered with shrapnel, rubble and the broken branches of trees hit by rockets.

Thousands of people crowded on to the streets under cover of the brief truce, fleeing homes near the front line and in the city centre for the northwestern suburbs further from the fighting.

The warring sides on Friday accepted appeals from Pakistan and the United Nations for a 24-hour ceasefire to allow

the evacuation of diplomats after the bloody battles for supremacy in which hundreds of people have been killed and more than 3,000 wounded.

Reports reaching Kabul said fighting had also died down in northern Mazar-e-Sharif, where Gen. Dostum has been battling to reassume control of the city where he has his headquarters.

"Why doesn't the United Nations send in soldiers to help us?" asked one man in Kabul, walking with his family towards the north.

I spent six years in jail under the communists for supporting the mujahideen (guerrillas), but now I'd rather have the Russians," said a shopkeeper as he picked through the ruins of his store.

"My shop has been looted and destroyed," he said. Some \$10,000 worth of spectacles had been stolen.

After a brief truce, the

evacuation of diplomats after the bloody battles for supremacy in which hundreds of people have been killed and more than 3,000 wounded.

Reports reaching Kabul said fighting had also died down in northern Mazar-e-Sharif, where Gen. Dostum has been battling to reassume control of the city where he has his headquarters.

"Why doesn't the United Nations send in soldiers to help us?" asked one man in Kabul, walking with his family towards the north.

I spent six years in jail under the communists for supporting the mujahideen (guerrillas), but now I'd rather have the Russians," said a shopkeeper as he picked through the ruins of his store.

"My shop has been looted and destroyed," he said. Some \$10,000 worth of spectacles had been stolen.

After a brief truce, the

and development of other bridges and would not be operational except by joint agreement in order to facilitate movement of persons, goods, vehicles, and both sides study the possibility of adding other bridges to facilitate the processes of transportation and crossing.

The two sides agree to study setting up joint projects in tourism areas and to cooperate in organising group tourist trips and to encourage and develop the tourism industry and to promote it and to study the possibility of establishing a joint tourist transportation company.

The two sides have agreed to draft a protocol which will organise the exchange of labour force and labour rights which include social security.

The two sides will draft a special agreement on encouraging joint investment and its protection and to provide all necessary facilities for the creation of an incentive environment for the private sector which would enable it to set up large and medium size investment projects and to encourage Jordanian and Palestinian capital abroad to participate in these projects.

The two sides agree to encourage the private sector in both countries to participate in construction activities and in implementing housing and infrastructure projects (electricity, energy, water, telecommunications).

With Capt. Mohammad's appointment, U.S. Army cha-

Appointment of Muslim army chaplain signals growing acceptance

By Rosalind Mandine Murphy

WASHINGTON — Captain Abdul-Rashied Mohammad, the first Islamic chaplain to be commissioned into the U.S. armed services, believes his appointment signals a growing understanding of Islam in the United States.

"My appointment is only a beginning...I am very optimistic for the future of Islam in the West," Capt. Mohammad said Jan. 5 during a WorldNet television programme with participants in Cairo, Doha and

plains now represent the Christian, Islamic and Jewish faiths. His job will be to facilitate the spiritual needs of Muslims serving in the military and offer assistance and counseling to all members of the U.S. Army, regardless of their faith. The Department of Defence estimates that 2,700 Muslims now serve in the U.S. armed forces, with about 1,400 serving in the army.

In order to reach out to all Muslim service members, Capt. Mohammad said he hopes to establish a team of Islamic representatives "in every strategic location where the army has troops." These representatives would report back to him on the needs of Muslim service members.

Capt. Mohammad said he hopes to establish a regular correspondence programme with all Muslim troops and their commanders in order to explain Islamic needs, particularly during Ramadan. He also hopes to work out requirements with the Department of Defence on establishing regular Islamic prayer services, following Muslim dietary require-

ments and allowing Muslim women in the military to wear the hijab.

Regarding Muslim women serving in the army, Capt. Mohammad said he must address how these service members can properly wear the hijab "without compromising various missions that may come up in the military." Capt. Mohammad expressed his hope that all Muslim women serving in the military will choose to wear the hijab in order to send a unified message to non-Muslims in the armed services.

Capt. Mohammad said he hopes his appointment will lead to an increase in the number of Islamic chaplains serving in the armed services. He said he also hopes his appointment will spur U.S. Muslims to serve in the military and prompt those who are serving to be open in their religious practice.

Asked about a potential conflict between what is required of him as a Muslim and what is required of him as a member of the U.S. armed services, Capt. Mohammad said he hopes his appointment will spur a mosque "symbol...of religious tolerance within the armed forces."

Capt. Mohammad said he plans to lead a delegation of Muslim service members to Mecca this year for the hajj pilgrimage. He expressed gratitude to Saudi Arabia for "affording hospitality towards (U.S.) Muslim service mem-

bers and reservists, for the last two years" of the hajj.

An important part of Capt. Mohammad's duties at Fort Bragg will be working directly with Muslims who have personal problems, such as marriage and parenting problems, he explained. Capt. Mohammad said he will also work to raise awareness among service members of the plight of Muslims throughout the world, such as in Bosnia and Somalia.

Capt. Mohammad said he hopes his appointment will lead to an increase in the number of Islamic chaplains serving in the armed services. He said he also hopes his appointment will spur U.S. Muslims to serve in the military and prompt those who are serving to be open in their religious practice.

Asked about a potential conflict between what is required of him as a Muslim and what is required of him as a member of the U.S. armed services, Capt. Mohammad said he hopes his appointment will lead to an increase in the number of Islamic chaplains serving in the armed services. He said he also hopes his appointment will spur U.S. Muslims to serve in the military and prompt those who are serving to be open in their religious practice.

Asked about a potential conflict between what is required of him as a Muslim and what is required of him as a member of the U.S. armed services, Capt. Mohammad said he hopes his appointment will lead to an increase in the number of Islamic chaplains serving in the armed services. He said he also hopes his appointment will spur U.S. Muslims to serve in the military and prompt those who are serving to be open in their religious practice.

Asked about a potential conflict between what is required of him as a Muslim and what is required of him as a member of the U.S. armed services, Capt. Mohammad said he hopes his appointment will lead to an increase in the number of Islamic chaplains serving in the armed services. He said he also hopes his appointment will spur U.S. Muslims to serve in the military and prompt those who are serving to be open in their religious practice.

Asked about a potential conflict between what is required of him as a Muslim and what is required of him as a member of the U.S. armed services, Capt. Mohammad said he hopes his appointment will lead to an increase in the number of Islamic chaplains serving in the armed services. He said he also hopes his appointment will spur U.S. Muslims to serve in the military and prompt those who are serving to be open in their religious practice.

Asked about a potential conflict between what is required of him as a Muslim and what is required of him as a member of the U.S. armed services, Capt. Mohammad said he hopes his appointment will lead to an increase in the number of Islamic chaplains serving in the armed services. He said he also hopes his appointment will spur U.S. Muslims to serve in the military and prompt those who are serving to be open in their religious practice.

Asked about a potential conflict between what is required of him as a Muslim and what is required of him as a member of the U.S. armed services, Capt. Mohammad said he hopes his appointment will lead to an increase in the number of Islamic chaplains serving in the armed services. He said he also hopes his appointment will spur U.S. Muslims to serve in the military and prompt those who are serving to be open in their religious practice.

Asked about a potential conflict between what is required of him as a Muslim and what is required of him as a member of the U.S. armed services, Capt. Mohammad said he hopes his appointment will lead to an increase in the number of Islamic chaplains serving in the armed services. He said he also hopes his appointment will spur U.S. Muslims to serve in the military and prompt those who are serving to be open in their religious practice.

Asked about a potential conflict between what is required of him as a Muslim and what is required of him as a member of the U.S. armed services, Capt. Mohammad said he hopes his appointment will lead to an increase in the number of Islamic chaplains serving in the armed services. He said he also hopes his appointment will spur U.S. Muslims to serve in the military and prompt those who are serving to be open in their religious practice.

Asked about a potential conflict between what is required of him as a Muslim and what is required of him as a member of the U.S. armed services, Capt. Mohammad said he hopes his appointment will lead to an increase in the number of Islamic chaplains serving in the armed services. He said he also hopes his appointment will spur U.S. Muslims to serve in the military and prompt those who are serving to be open in their religious practice.

Asked about a potential conflict between what is required of him as a Muslim and what is required of him as a member of the U.S. armed services, Capt. Mohammad said he hopes his appointment will lead to an increase in the number of Islamic chaplains serving in the armed services. He said he also hopes his appointment will spur U.S. Muslims to serve in the military and prompt those who are serving to be open in their religious practice.

Asked about a potential conflict between what is required of him as a Muslim and what is required of him as a member of the U.S. armed services, Capt. Mohammad said he hopes his appointment will lead to an increase in the number of Islamic chaplains serving in the armed services. He said he also hopes his appointment will spur U.S. Muslims to serve in the military and prompt those who are serving to be open in their religious practice.

Asked about a potential conflict between what is required of him as a Muslim and what is required of him as a member of the U.S. armed services, Capt. Mohammad said he hopes his appointment will lead to an increase in the number of Islamic chaplains serving in the armed services. He said he also hopes his appointment will spur U.S. Muslims to serve in the military and prompt those who are serving to be open in their religious practice.

Asked about a potential conflict between what is required of him as a Muslim and what is required of him as a member of the U.S. armed services, Capt. Mohammad said he hopes his appointment will lead to an increase in the number of Islamic chaplains serving in the armed services. He said he also hopes his appointment will spur U.S. Muslims to serve in the military and prompt those who are serving to be open in their religious practice.

Asked about a potential conflict between what is required of him as a Muslim and what is required of him as a member of the U.S. armed services, Capt. Mohammad said he hopes his appointment will lead to an increase in the number of Islamic chaplains serving in the armed services. He said he also hopes his appointment will spur U.S. Muslims to serve in the military and prompt those who are serving to be open in their religious practice.

Asked about a potential conflict between what is required of him as a Muslim and what is required of him as a member of the U.S. armed services, Capt. Mohammad said he hopes his appointment will lead to an increase in the number of Islamic chaplains serving in the armed services. He said he also hopes his appointment will spur U.S. Muslims to serve in the military and prompt those who are serving to be open in their religious practice.

Asked about a potential conflict between what is required of him as a Muslim and what is required of him as a member of the U.S. armed services, Capt. Mohammad said he hopes his appointment will lead to an increase in the number of Islamic chaplains serving in the armed services. He said he also hopes his appointment will spur U.S. Muslims to serve in the military and prompt those who are serving to be open in their religious practice.

Asked about a potential conflict between what is required of him as a Muslim and what is required of him as a member of the U.S. armed services, Capt. Mohammad said he hopes his appointment will lead to an increase in the number of Islamic chaplains serving in the armed services. He said he also hopes his appointment will spur U.S. Muslims to serve in the military and prompt those who are serving to be open in their religious practice.

Asked about a potential conflict between what is required of him as a Muslim and what is required of him as a member of the U.S. armed services, Capt. Mohammad said he hopes his appointment will lead to an increase in the number of Islamic chaplains serving in the armed services. He said he also hopes his appointment will spur U.S. Muslims to serve in the military and prompt those who are serving to be open in their religious practice.

Asked about a potential conflict between what is required of him as a Muslim and what is required of him as a member of the U.S. armed services, Capt. Mohammad said he hopes his appointment will lead to an increase in the number of Islamic chaplains serving in the armed services. He said he also hopes his appointment will spur U.S. Muslims to serve in the military and prompt those who are serving to be open in their religious practice.

Asked about a potential conflict between what is required of

Viacom, Blockbuster merge and bid for Paramount

NEW YORK (R) — Viacom Inc. said Friday it would merge with Blockbuster Entertainment Corp. in an \$8.4 billion deal and sweeten its takeover bid for Paramount Communications Inc., aiming to create a global entertainment colossus.

The double-barreled deal would combine Viacom's cable-TV programming with the home video retailing might of Blockbuster and the Hollywood and publishing power of Paramount.

In the stunning development in a long-running takeover battle, Viacom-Blockbuster offered \$105 per share cash, or \$6.5 billion, for 50.1 per cent of Paramount and stock for the remainder. Analysts said Viacom valued the bid at \$79.23 a share or \$9.75 billion total.

The bid compares with the \$92 per share, or \$5.5 billion, that QVC Network Inc. bid for 51 per cent of Paramount, and stock for the remaining 49 per cent, which was accepted by the entertainment giant last month. Analysts valued QVC's total bid at about \$8.4 a share, or about \$9.8 billion.

Several arbitrators were said to be dissatisfied with the terms of Viacom's fresh bid. "I know large shareholders tendering to QVC as we speak," said one. Viacom's new bid expires Jan. 21.

Under its deal with Paramount, QVC is obliged to extend its offer, which was due to expire at midnight Friday, to coincide with a new bid from Viacom, so long as the new bid is higher and not merely a delaying tactic.

But in a statement released Friday evening, QVC said Viacom's new offer was not sufficient to trigger a new round of bidding. It called the Viacom-Blockbuster bid "inferior to QVC's current offer."

Once the Viacom-Blockbuster merger is complete, "QVC believes it likely that the blended value of the new Viacom offer will be less than Viacom's estimates and even less than Viacom's previous offer," it said.

QVC said it would make an announcement regarding any extension of its offer before the start of trading Monday. Arbitrators said the QVC stance could signal a new legal battle ahead.

Viacom said its bid was based on a strategy of forming a worldwide entertainment conglomerate — something it had aimed for ever since it got entwined in the long-running entertainment battle.

"From the very beginning, Viacom's strategic rationale for joining forces with Paramount was the creation of a new global entertainment powerhouse with an array of complementary, world-class

assets," Viacom Chairman Sumner Redstone said in a statement.

Mr. Redstone, 70, the majority holder of Viacom, will own 61 per cent of the combined company, to be named Viacom-Blockbuster Inc. once the merger is completed.

Paramount said its board would meet next week to consider the new offer.

The merger will leave two billionaires at the top two positions at the company, with Mr. Redstone as chairman and Blockbuster founder Wayne Huizenga as vice chairman.

Both Viacom and QVC have been competing for months to buy Paramount. In an auction last December, QVC, run by Paramount alumnus Barry Diller, came out the winner with the highest bid.

QVC then sealed an agreement with New York-based Paramount and Wall Street waited on tenterhooks to see whether Viacom would get the financial power to launch a higher offer for Paramount. It already had a \$1.2 billion investment from Nynex Corp. and Blockbuster but needed more investments.

Now that cable company Viacom is merging with the giant video retailing chain Blockbuster, the combined entity gained the financial might to seek Paramount.

Under the deal, Blockbuster is investing \$1.25 billion in Viacom for \$23 million shares.

"The combination of Viacom with Blockbuster and Paramount creates a uniquely diversified portfolio of global entertainment assets and operations with extraordinary capacity to exploit worldwide opportunities," Mr. Redstone said.

Paramount said its board would leave two positions at the top two positions at the company, with Mr. Redstone as chairman and Blockbuster founder Wayne Huizenga as vice chairman.

Both Viacom and QVC have been competing for months to buy Paramount. In an auction last December, QVC, run by Paramount alumnus Barry Diller, came out the winner with the highest bid.

QVC then sealed an agreement with New York-based Paramount and Wall Street waited on tenterhooks to see whether Viacom would get the financial power to launch a higher offer for Paramount. It already had a \$1.2 billion investment from Nynex Corp. and Blockbuster but needed more investments.

Now that cable company Viacom is merging with the giant video retailing chain Blockbuster, the combined entity gained the financial might to seek Paramount.

China establishes first minimum wage rules

BEIJING (R) — China has established its first minimum wage rules to protect workers' living standards, the official China Daily said Friday.

The level set by individual cities and provinces, must be at least half the local average wage, the newspaper said.

Shanghai, China's business centre, has set the minimum at 210 yuan (\$24) a month, while the south China special economic zone of Shenzhen has set its level at 280 yuan (\$32) a month.

At a time of sharply rising prices, these amounts would provide only the most basic existence.

Last year the average worker in Shenzhen had a total monthly income of 641 yuan (\$74), of which he or she spent 552 yuan (\$63), official statistics show. Many workers earn extra income outside their main job.

The China Daily said the minimums were aimed at low-wage earners "who have been affected by rising prices at a period of economic growth."

Meanwhile, China's foreign trade surged 18.2 per cent in 1993 to a record \$195.72 billion, but spiralling imports led to the biggest trade deficit since 1985, customs data has shown.

The huge deficit was expected to increase pressure on Beijing to try to increase exports and control imports at a time when the United States and other trading partners are clamouring for better access to China's restricted markets.

Imports soared 29 per cent compared with 1992 to \$103.95 billion while exports grew only eight per cent to \$91.77 billion, according to the statistics, which were reported on static radio.

The resulting trade deficit totalled \$12.18 billion, the biggest since a \$14.9 billion trade gap in 1985. It was China's first deficit since a \$6.6 billion shortfall in 1989.

Tough retrenchment measures, including a virtual ban on new imports, resulted in three years of trade surpluses in 1990, 1991 and 1992, but also slammed the brakes on economic growth. The retrenchment eased in mid-1992.

The 1992 surplus was \$4.34 billion, although an import binge fuelled by China's 13 per cent annual economic growth and falling tariffs had begun

Passengers who still have the special foreigners' currency — foreign exchange certificates, or FECs, which will be phased out under the currency reforms — can pay the old prices, said a Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) official.

On Jan. 1, China abolished the old official exchange rate of 5.8 yuan to one U.S. dollar, endorsing instead the market exchange rate, now 8.7 yuan to the dollar.

Air tickets from the capital, Beijing, to the southern boom town of Guangzhou are now 1,490 yuan (\$171) instead of 980 yuan, an increase of 52 per cent in the local currency.

Tickets from Beijing to Shanghai, the country's business centre, rose by nearly 53 per cent in yuan terms.

Passengers who pay for international flights in yuan instead of the foreigners' FEC will have to pay a 50 per cent premium, the official said.

Inflation could give Sri Lanka some problems

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lankans' economy looks set to improve in 1994 with increased growth and a cheaper import bill but inflation could cause headaches, a senior government economist has said.

"Every indicator points to a good year except inflation which could give us some problems if not brought under control," he told Reuters in an interview.

The company's creditor

to agree, the source said. Analysts said the new plunge in the shares — which were trading at 427 marks in mid-November — made it almost a certainty that planned capital rise would be carried solely by M.G.'s institutional shareholders and its creditor banks.

As part of its rescue plan, M.G. wants to raise 1.4 billion marks (\$805 million) through an issue of 5.6 million shares at 250 marks each.

All shareholders have rights to the new shares, but the issue is unlikely to be attractive to the small shareholders who

currently own some 35 per cent of the company.

"If you were a small shareholder, would you buy the stock at 250 when you can get it much cheaper in the market?" said equities analyst Michael Bock at Barclays de Zoete Wedd.

With small shareholders so badly burned by the M.G. disaster, German newspapers Friday began to ask how the major German companies who own around one-third of Metallgesellschaft could have so widely misjudged the financial status of the company.

of the import bill, are coming down internationally which means we can spend less and save foreign exchange," he said.

The economist said the balance of payments would show a surplus with exports increasing in value and quantity and imports costing less.

"Petroleum and wheat prices, more than 15 per cent

undermining the favourable balance in late 1992.

Textile and clothing led overall exports, the customs administration said, but no figures were disclosed.

China's textile exports to the United States are at the centre of a bitter bilateral dispute over Chinese factories' alleged abuse of U.S. import quotas.

Washington last week accused China of cheating on textile exports to the tune of \$2 billion a year by misrepresenting their Chinese origins and said it would slash China's textile quota by up to 35 per cent.

China lodged a strong protest and threatened a tit-for-tat trade sanctions.

Registering the biggest export growth was China's export processing industry, up 11.7 per cent over 1992 at \$44.25 billion.

Machinery and electronics imports ballooned 41.7 per cent last year and comprised half of all 1993 imports, the customs administration said.

China's leading partner again was Japan, followed by Hong Kong, the United States, the European Union, Taiwan, South Korea, Russia, Singapore, Australia and Canada.

The official China Daily has also said that China has raised the price of air tickets by about 50 per cent to make up for losses caused by the effective devaluation of its currency on Jan. 1.

Passengers who still have the special foreigners' currency — foreign exchange certificates, or FECs, which will be phased out under the currency reforms — can pay the old prices, said a Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) official.

On Jan. 1, China abolished the old official exchange rate of 5.8 yuan to one U.S. dollar, endorsing instead the market exchange rate, now 8.7 yuan to the dollar.

The resulting trade deficit totalled \$12.18 billion, the biggest since a \$14.9 billion trade gap in 1985. It was China's first deficit since a \$6.6 billion shortfall in 1989.

Tough retrenchment measures, including a virtual ban on new imports, resulted in three years of trade surpluses in 1990, 1991 and 1992, but also slammed the brakes on economic growth. The retrenchment eased in mid-1992.

The 1992 surplus was \$4.34 billion, although an import binge fuelled by China's 13 per cent annual economic growth and falling tariffs had begun

Passengers who still have the special foreigners' currency — foreign exchange certificates, or FECs, which will be phased out under the currency reforms — can pay the old prices, said a Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) official.

On Jan. 1, China abolished the old official exchange rate of 5.8 yuan to one U.S. dollar, endorsing instead the market exchange rate, now 8.7 yuan to the dollar.

Air tickets from the capital, Beijing, to the southern boom town of Guangzhou are now 1,490 yuan (\$171) instead of 980 yuan, an increase of 52 per cent in the local currency.

Tickets from Beijing to Shanghai, the country's business centre, rose by nearly 53 per cent in yuan terms.

Passenger who pay for international flights in yuan instead of the foreigners' FEC will have to pay a 50 per cent premium, the official said.

Balladur says unemployment fight will take time

PARIS (R) — Prime Minister Edouard Balladur said Friday he was disappointed in France's sluggish economic growth and warned the country not to expect a swift end to unemployment, now at a record high.

"The effort will perhaps be harder and longer than we had thought," he told reporters at a new year reception.

The conservative prime minister said his goal was to halt the unemployment spiral in 1994 and vowed to personally lead France's fight to tame unemployment and spur the economy this year, staking his political future on the challenge.

"It's a battle I intend to lead personally, regardless of the risk," Mr. Balladur said.

"My sole task in 1994 is to assure France's recovery," the popular conservative prime minister said, adding pointedly he was well aware presidential elections were set for 1995.

Opinion polls show Mr. Balladur is by far the voters' favourite to succeed Socialist President Francois Mitterrand, whose second seven-year term expires in 1995. But Mr. Balladur has so far only hinted he might run for the presidency, coveted by the leader of his Gaullist Rally for the Republic Party (RPR), Jacques Chirac.

"There are no doubt about it," Mr. Balladur said. "Whatever constraints the elections may place on the government, I intend to fully exercise my duties."

Mr. Mitterrand Wednesday launched a veiled attack on Mr. Balladur, saying the gov-

ernment had given away 80 billion francs (\$13.5 billion) to business without creating any jobs.

A record 3.29 million people, 12 per cent of the workforce, were out of work in November.

"Don't you think these 80 billion francs could have been used differently?" Mr. Mitterrand asked. Mr. Chirac has also called for more sweeping reforms.

Mr. Balladur did not reply to the criticism but announced he will convene a meeting of ministers with economic portfolios on Jan. 18 and a special committee on jobs on Jan. 25.

He will call in employers' groups and trade unions at the end of February to talk about the economic situation and finalise key elements of a five-year plan for jobs. They include a measure encouraging workers to fix the number of hours they work by the year rather than the week, which would make work schedules more flexible.

Mr. Balladur said he was disappointed in the sluggish business recovery and conceded the economic crisis was deeper than he had expected when his conservative majority took power last March.

The government succeeded in slowing down the increase in numbers of unemployed workers in the second half of 1993, but he said he lamented the continued growth in the jobless rate.

"What goal can the government set itself for 1994?" Mr. Balladur asked.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY JANUARY 9, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Fighter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES:

You will be able to start the new week with renewed interest in home and family-life and whatever is of prime importance to you leading to greater abundance and satisfaction. Be alert.

-SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) This can be a particularly happy day if you contact really good friends you like and enjoy activities, amusements that truly satisfy.

-TAURUS: (April 21 to May 20) Get you special talents before the right people on this free day. Then get into places where interesting people congregate and make fine contacts, be happy.

-GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Make this a productive day by concentrating upon worldly affairs and getting plans formulated for a more successful future.

-MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Take the time to have a long talk, with persons of a religious background and you find that it will be very enlightening and helpful.

-LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Your intuitive faculties are working very accurately today and you would be wise to use them in the solving of present problem which you may have.

-VIRGO: (August 22 to September 21) This day affords you an opportunity to come to a better understanding with key persons in your life. Listen to their ideas and give credit where credit is due.

-SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Family ties are wondering if you aren't being quite selfish, so be sure you assist them in any way that you can and increase harmony, security within the home.

-CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 21) The study of fine literature and listening to inspiring sermons or services of your choice helps you today to raise level of consciousness for better and more successful living in the future.

-AQUARIUS: (January 22 to February 19) By reverting to excellent standards under which you were raised, plus the best of our experiences you have found successful, you will be able to solve current problems wisely.

-PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Friendships at social gatherings tonight will produce excellent results with influential persons you encounter. Don't be afraid to state your aims and ambitions of constructive, ethical nature.

Copyright © 1994 Carroll Fighter Foundation, Inc.

THE Daily Crossword by C. F. Murray

CROSSWORD

1 No longer current
5 Not harmonious
9 Season
13 Woody's boy
14 Last name
15 Kingpin is one
16 Jazz composer
18 Alaska's first governor
19 Last name
20 Writer Murdoch
21 Like me!
23 Flair
24 N.T. book abbr.
25 Knocked down
26 Horse
33 Blue dye
34 Lat. abbr.
36 Scornful expression
3

Economy



JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY, JANUARY 9, 1994

Rafsanjani: Iran can survive without oil

TEHRAN (R) — President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said Friday Iran could survive even if its oil exports were cut off completely.

Responding to criticism over economic difficulties worsened by falling oil prices, he said foreign reports of Iran's woes were part of a "concerted propaganda campaign" inspired by the United States to dishearten the people and isolate Iranian officials.

"Even if our oil exports are halted we can continue, though naturally at a slower pace," he said at a mass prayer sermon.

Mr. Rafsanjani said free-market reforms and investment in infrastructural projects during Iran's first five-year economic plan which ends on March 20 had greatly reduced the country's decades-long re-

lance on crude oil export revenue.

"If this oil shock had happened four years ago it would have hurt us but it is not dangerous today," he said, referring to the 30 per cent fall in oil prices in 1993.

"So the shock they created to hurt us is now hurting their friends," Mr. Rafsanjani said.

Iran mainly blames North Sea producers Britain and Norway for the oil glut. The price fall has also hit pro-Western producers like Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Rafsanjani said he had

information that U.S. officials,

at a meeting of Western industrial countries, had argued that the danger from Iran came

"not from Islamic fundamentalist, but its (economic) recovery" and everything must be done to stop it.

His economic assessment is at odds with that of parliament deputies and newspapers. They attribute spiralling prices and a slide in the value of the rial to depressed oil revenues.

Senior deputies say Iran's oil income in the year to March 20 would not exceed \$12 billion, falling \$5 billion short of target.

They say Iran could expect to get no more than \$12 per each barrel of oil next year instead of \$14 as assumed in Rafsanjani's proposed budget.

Non-oil exports fetched about \$3 billion in the last Iranian year.

Mr. Rafsanjani said the real figure was closer to \$5 billion because exporters understated their value.

The president said the problems Iran faced were not extraordinary for a country that "wants to lock horns with the most Satanic powers on earth."

He branded some of the critics as publicity-seekers who magnified problems to grab

headlines and rabble-rousers who "speak about 'the bones of the vulnerable strata being crushed' but cannot even spell 'bones' or 'vulnerable.'"

Meanwhile, the head of the Iranian parliament's plan and budget committee was quoted as saying Friday that Iran would earn about \$14 billion in oil revenue in the year ending March 20, compared with a budget target of \$17 billion.

Iran's IRNA news agency said Qorbanai Dori Najafabadi gave his estimate at a speech at Tehran's mass prayer meeting. It did not say on what price and export levels the estimate was based.

His figure was higher than the \$12 billion given by Mohammad Reza Bahonar, a member of the parliament's economy and finance committee, in a Teheran newspaper interview two weeks ago.

Mr. Bahonar had said Iran was receiving \$11 for each barrel of oil instead of the budgeted \$17.

Canada's jobless rate increases to 11.2%

OTTAWA (AFP) — Canada's jobless rate increased in December to 11.2 per cent, compared to 11 per cent in November, the government reported Friday. Statistics Canada said the December figures meant that the annual average unemployment rate in Canada was also 11.2 per cent in 1993, compared to 11.3 per cent in 1992. But the number of workers forced to take what it termed "involuntary part-time employment," where workers wanting full-time jobs were forced to take part-time positions, jumped from 669,000 in 1992 to 760,000 last year.

Lebanese prime minister invests \$125m in rebuilding

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's billionaire Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri has paid \$125 million to buy shares in the company that will rebuild war-tattered central Beirut, a senior aide said Friday.

The announcement came as Lebanon clamoured for shares in the \$650 million offer by the Lebanese Company for the Development and Reconstruction of Beirut Central District (Solidere), despite reports the offer was already oversubscribed.

Mustapha Za'atari, head of the "Hariri Foundation," said the prime minister had placed \$125 million for Solidere shares, seven per cent of its total authorised capital of \$1.82 billion.

The maximum investment permitted to a single individual or institution is 10 per cent. Mr. Hariri, who made his

fortune in Saudi Arabia, had vowed to invest in the project to encourage investors and give the scheme more credibility.

The revenue of his shares would be distributed among humanitarian, social, educational and charity institutions, Mr. Za'atari said.

Solidere said subscriptions in Solidere had picked up this week ahead of Monday's deadline.

"In the first few weeks there was hesitation but demand has risen sharply as the deadline approaches," said banker Ghazi Al Akil at Banque du Liban et D'outre-Mer.

He said subscriptions ranged from \$200 to \$250,000.

Nasser Chamaa, secretary general of Solidere's board of founders, said this week the offer would be oversubscribed.

He refused to give figures but sources at the \$1.82 billion company said they expected the total subscriptions to be between \$800 million and \$1 billion.

People subscribing at several banks said they were doing so because either they believed the project was profitable or they wanted to take part in Lebanon's reconstruction after the 1975-1990 civil war.

"I am investing \$5,000 just to say that I am taking part in the campaign to rebuild the country," Mohammad Al Hajj said as he handed his money over. "I will not regret it if I lose money as long as Lebanon recovers."

The Solidere flotation is Lebanon's biggest and one of the largest launched in the Middle East. It is restricted to Lebanese and Arab individuals and institutions.

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET			
	TRADED VOLUME	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
ABRA BANK	1,360,000	392.000	390.000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	1,125,000	390.000	390.000
KHEDER INVESTMENT BANK	9,935	4,570	4,600
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	231,000	3,140	3,170
JORDAN COMMODITY BANK	160,737	3,140	3,140
JORDAN CREDIT BANK	109,383	1,710	1,800
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL BANK	109,383	1,710	1,800
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	25,000	4,530	4,600
UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT	85,235	3,000	3,100
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	770	7,500	7,700
HEALTH & DAIVING INSURANCE FOR BUSINESS	1,124,000	3,140	3,140
JORDAN INSURANCE COMPANIES	13,075	4,600	4,630
ARAB BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN PENSION FUND INVESTMENT BANK	33,127	3,000	3,100
JORDAN INSURANCE	1,775	3,000	3,100
UNITED INSURANCE	835	3,180	3,240
GENERAL INSURANCE	735	3,180	3,240
JORDAN FRANC INSURANCE	227,925	3,170	3,240
GENERAL ACCIDENT INSURANCE	2,100	3,180	3,190
JORDAN ELECTRIC POWER	574,494	3,450	3,550
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	1,123	3,000	3,100
JORDAN NATIONAL SAVING BANKS	34,869	3,100	3,100
JORDAN PETROLEUM COMPANY	30,743	4,500	4,500
JORDAN PETROLEUM SECURITIES	30,743	4,500	4,500
NETHERLANDS INVESTMENTS LEASING	33,169	1,710	1,720
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	1,325	3,180	3,180
JORDAN MIDDLE EAST & CONSTRUCTION	762,424	3,000	3,100
ARAB INTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	311,218	3,400	3,400
JORDAN PETROLEUM & MANUFACTURING	10,440	10,420	10,450
JORDAN PETROLEUM MILLS	101,320	3,100	3,100
JORDAN PETROLEUM & AGRICULTURAL	176,830	11,340	11,300
JORDAN PETROLEUM & MANUFACTURING	1,950	7,500	7,500
JORDAN CERAMIC INDUSTRIES	33,779	3,000	3,100
JORDAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	78,251	3,180	3,180
EXPARTO & PARTNERS	4,210	3,420	3,540
JAFIA INDUSTRIES	1,415	3,180	3,180
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL GROUPS	352,826	15,590	17,420
DAR AL DAIA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	265,185	3,140	3,140
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	10,440	3,140	3,140
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	62,166	1,600	1,550
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	10,440	10,420	10,450
JORDAN PETROLEUM & MANUFACTURING	101,320	3,100	3,100
JORDAN PETROLEUM MILLS	176,830	11,340	11,300
JORDAN PETROLEUM & AGRICULTURAL	1,950	7,500	7,500
JORDAN PETROLEUM & MANUFACTURING	78,251	3,180	3,180
JORDAN PETROLEUM & MANUFACTURING	33,779	3,000	3,100
JORDAN PETROLEUM & MANUFACTURING	10,440	4,600	4,700
JORDAN PETROLEUM & MANUFACTURING	50,841	3,180	3,180
JORDAN PETROLEUM & MANUFACTURING	14,001	3,170	3,180
JORDAN PETROLEUM & MANUFACTURING	104,144	8,700	8,700
JORDAN PETROLEUM & MANUFACTURING	123,221	3,000	3,100
ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	9,966	3,140	3,140
JORDAN PETROLEUM CO. FOR AGRI. & FOOD PROD.	724,818	5,800	6,000
UNIVERSAL HOUSES INDUSTRIES	724,818	5,800	6,000
GRAND TOTAL	10,775,654		

Financial Markets Jordan Times
In co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

Currency	31/12/93 Close	7/1/94 Close	Percent Change
Sterling Pound*	1.4770	1.4930	1.08 %
Deutsche Mark	1.7352	1.7275	-0.62 %
Swiss Franc	1.4880	1.4660	-1.50 %
French Franc	5.9190	5.8828	-0.62 %
Japanese Yen	111.85	111.85	[0.02]%

USD Per STDG

Euro-Currency Interest Rates		31/12/1993	7/1/1994
		1 Month (%)	1 Year (%)
Currency			
U.S. Dollar	3.10	3.68	3.00
Sterling Pound	5.55	5.12	5.37
Deutsche Mark	6.06	5.06	6.00
Swiss Franc	4.19	3.59	3.93
French Franc	6.46	5.45	6.42
Japanese Yen	2.31	1.75	2.37
			1.75

Interest bid rates for amounts exceeding £ 1,000,000 or equivalent

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 8/1/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.7040	0.7060
Sterling Pound	1.0503	1.0556
Deutsche Mark	0.4072	0.4092
Swiss Franc	0.4798	0.4822
French Franc	0.1196	0.1202
Japanese Yen*	0.6282	0.6313</

Fire tornadoes tear through Sydney; death toll hits 4

SYDNEY (R) — Tornadoes of fire tore through parts of Sydney and its commuter towns Saturday, razing homes and forcing thousands of people to flee to beaches as the city's worst fire crisis blazed into its third day.

One person was killed in Sydney's south, bringing the death toll to four since bushfires started raging across New South Wales, Australia's most populous state, 10 days ago.

At least 100 homes were on fire, many in the Sutherland area to the city's south and the Pittwater district in the north.

Thousands of people were being evacuated in the city's southern and northern districts as well as in the Blue Mountains west of the city and in the Gosford area to the north.

Radio reports that people were trapped in homes could not be confirmed but police said some residents were refusing to leave their homes despite the danger.

"We have firestorm activity being recorded... But that I don't mean storms in the conventional sense, but fire behaviour that develops its own tornado-like activity," said Phil Robson, a Bushfire Headquarters spokesman.

"In those areas the fire behaviour is so extreme that firefighters are withdrawing from

areas where fire is burning through and will return when it is safe," Mr. Robson said.

Hot winds gusting to 70 kph (44 mph) sent firefighters running for their lives as over 150 fires were fanned into infernos across New Wales state.

Fires also surrounded the nearby Hawkesbury River community of Brooklyn, cutting off the only road exit.

The 800 residents were ordered to assemble at a local park for evacuation by water.

"I think I'll be putting the family on the punt and heading out into the river," said Oyster farmer Ray Johnson as he gathered with his wife and children.

Several hundred elderly people were evacuated by bus from local nursing homes and children at fitness camp were moved as fires moved towards Narrabeen Beach in the north.

Sydney's wooded northern suburbs of Lane Cove, Terry Hills, Kilara and West Chatswood were again burning as old fires flared and new ones ignited. A country club and a nursing home were reported to be on fire but no injuries were reported.

Others loaded boats with belongings and sailed out to safer waters as million-dollar homes on the Pittwater on Broken Bay, 30 kilometres north of the city, burst into flames.

Officials said about 44 houses were alight in the area.

Even houses on islands were not safe as embers blew across the water, sparking fires and exploding one house on Scotland Island in Broken Bay.

Officials said the downtown district was not in danger but the fires were causing major power surges throughout the city as the blazes destroyed power lines around the city.

To the west of Sydney, the densely populated Blue Mountains area was being evacuated as a major blaze tore through the deep gullies and ravines. The Great Western Highway linking Sydney with the mountains was closed.

"We are not saying they should panic but things are not looking good," he said.

As winds swung wildly, dozens of fires in Sydney whipped lethally from one suburb to another, forcing evacuations.

One huge fire marched towards Sydney's northern beaches, where boat owners desperately hosed down yachts.

Others loaded boats with belongings and sailed out to safer waters as million-dollar homes on the Pittwater on Broken Bay, 30 kilometres north of the city, burst into flames.

In the south of the city around Menai fires engulfed a school and a block of apartments.

As evening fell, ash, embers and burnt leaves rained down

on the city and the sky was enveloped in a grey haze. Visibility in places was reduced to metres and cars were forced to turn on headlights in the late afternoon.

Official said the downtown district was not in danger but the fires were causing major power surges throughout the city as the blazes destroyed power lines around the city.

To the west of Sydney, the densely populated Blue Mountains area was being evacuated as a major blaze tore through the deep gullies and ravines. The Great Western Highway linking Sydney with the mountains was closed.

"We are not saying they should panic but things are not looking good," he said.

As winds swung wildly, dozens of fires in Sydney whipped lethally from one suburb to another, forcing evacuations.

One huge fire marched towards Sydney's northern beaches, where boat owners desperately hosed down yachts.

Others loaded boats with belongings and sailed out to safer waters as million-dollar homes on the Pittwater on Broken Bay, 30 kilometres north of the city, burst into flames.

In the south of the city around Menai fires engulfed a school and a block of apartments.

As evening fell, ash, embers and burnt leaves rained down



Fire engulfs the recycling plant in Sydney's northern suburb as a fire swept through the area (AP photo)

Pretoria, ANC slam Inkatha poll stand

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South Africa's ruling National Party accused the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party Saturday of resorting to blackmail by saying it would boycott elections unless its demands for regional autonomy were met.

The National Party has been cut around the state, major rail lines have been shut down, and tens of thousands of people have been stranded.

There were no official estimates of the cost of the damage to homes and property. "We've never had to face fires of this magnitude in Australia," said Pbil Koperberg, director of Bushfire Service for New South Wales..

As evening fell, ash, embers and burnt leaves rained down

ing to blackmail by making acceptance of their proposals a requirement for their participation in the elections," it added.

Inkatha, led by chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, said Friday it would not participate in the country's first all-race elections on April 27, but left the door open to further negotiations.

Inkatha said it would reconsider if its demands for greater regional powers and fiscal autonomy were met by the government and its arch-rivals, the African National Congress (ANC).

Mr. Buthelezi's party said only the acceptance of the FA proposals for greater regional powers and fiscal autonomy handed to the government and Nelson Mandela's ANC in December will enable Inkatha to reconsider its stand.

The alliance's demands include the right of regions to make and amend their own constitutions, fiscal autonomy for regions and a dual ballot system for local and national bodies.

"The NP will consider Inkatha and FA's proposals on merit. Although we would like

to see all parties take part in the election, we shall not allow ourselves to be blackmailed in the process," Mr. De Klerk's party said.

The ANC said it regretted Inkatha's decision and added in a statement: "The ANC remains committed to negotiations with all parties to ensure the process is as inclusive as possible."

It also said: "All South Africans and the entire world expect the democratic process and elections of the 27th of April to go ahead as scheduled. There can be absolutely no question of reviewing the election date."

Inkatha has been holding bilateral talks with the government and the ANC and is due to meet them again before Jan. 24.

In an attempt to draw the alliance into the democracy process, the government and the ANC have agreed to conservative calls for some strong regional powers, including policing and some taxation.

But the ANC has been adamant that the FA's demand for virtual autonomy should not be met.

2 jailed in Spain for killing matadors

MURCIA, Spain (R) — A Spanish farmer and one of his farmhands were jailed for a total of 81 years each for shooting dead three youths who were practising bullfighting by moonlight on their land. The Murcia High Court sentenced Manuel Costa and Jose Manuel Yepes to three separate terms of 27 years each for the murder of apprentice matadors Lorenzo Franco, Juan Carlos Rumbo and Andres Panduro on Dec. 1, 1990. The three youths entered Costa's farm near Cieza, southeast Spain, apparently following an old bullfighting tradition that young matadors should practice their art on calves or cows by the light of a full moon.

Minutes later they were cut down by a total of 11 blasts from a shotgun. The court ordered that the case be kept open to investigate the possible involvement of a third person.

The court ordered that the case be kept open to investigate the possible involvement of a third person.

The court ordered that the case be kept open to investigate the possible involvement of a third person.

The court ordered that the case be kept open to investigate the possible involvement of a third person.

The court ordered that the case be kept open to investigate the possible involvement of a third person.

The court ordered that the case be kept open to investigate the possible involvement of a third person.

The court ordered that the case be kept open to investigate the possible involvement of a third person.

The court ordered that the case be kept open to investigate the possible involvement of a third person.

The court ordered that the case be kept open to investigate the possible involvement of a third person.

The court ordered that the case be kept open to investigate the possible involvement of a third person.

The court ordered that the case be kept open to investigate the possible involvement of a third person.

The court ordered that the case be kept open to investigate the possible involvement of a third person.

The court ordered that the case be kept open to investigate the possible involvement of a third person.

The court ordered that the case be kept open to investigate the possible involvement of a third person.

The court ordered that the case be kept open to investigate the possible involvement of a third person.

The court ordered that the case be kept open to investigate the possible involvement of a third person.

The court ordered that the case be kept open to investigate the possible involvement of a third person.

The court ordered that the case be kept open to investigate the possible involvement of a third person.

The court ordered that the case be kept open to investigate the possible involvement of a third person.

The court ordered that the case be kept open to investigate the possible involvement of a third person.

The court ordered that the case be kept open to investigate the possible involvement of a third person.

The court ordered that the case be kept open to investigate the possible involvement of a third person.

The court ordered that the case be kept open to investigate the possible involvement of a third person.

The court ordered that the case be kept open to investigate the possible involvement of a third person.

The court ordered that the case be kept open to investigate the possible involvement of a third person.

The court ordered that the case be kept open to investigate the possible involvement of a third person.

The court ordered that the case be kept open to investigate the possible involvement of a third person.

The court ordered that the case be kept open to investigate the possible involvement of a third person.

The court ordered that the case be kept open to investigate the possible involvement of a third person.

The court ordered that the case be kept open to investigate the possible involvement of a third person.

The court ordered that the case be kept open to investigate the possible involvement of a third person.

The court ordered that the case be kept open to investigate the possible involvement of a third person.

The court ordered that the case be kept open to investigate the possible involvement of a third person.

One-off Korean nuclear inspection is not enough, U.S. senators say

TOKYO (R) — American lawmakers said Saturday the United States will not accept a one-time inspection of North Korea's declared nuclear facilities but will demand access to suspect sites and even waste disposal areas.

Two U.S. senators, Democrat Sam Nunn and Republican Richard Lugar, both experts on the North Korean situation, cautioned against overexpectations of a breakthrough in a tense dispute over nuclear inspection with the reclusive Stalinist state.

They also advised the governments in the U.S. and the North Pacific — Japan, South Korea, China and Russia — to begin preparing their people for possible sacrifices if the North was hit with economic sanctions for refusing to allow international inspection.

U.S. Undersecretary of State Lynn Davis raised hopes the inspection row was near settlement when he said in Washington Wednesday the North had agreed in negotiations with the U.S. to allow

inspections of seven declared nuclear sites.

The world community is concerned in particular about two nuclear waste dumps that could shed light on whether the isolated regime has produced nuclear weapons.

"The nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT) clearly calls for inspections by the IAEA not only on a one-time basis but on a regular basis and on a spot basis, on any basis that is required to make certain that non-proliferation is obtained," Sen. Lugar said.

Sen. Nunn added that the inspection process must include suspect sites such as disposal and waste areas.

Sen. Nunn, head of the Senate's Armed Services Committee, and Sen. Lugar, a member of its Foreign Affairs Committee, said it was time to begin preparing Americans and the citizens of the North Pacific for possible repercussions in the event an uncooperative North Korea was slapped with economic sanctions.

"The North Korean leadership, I believe, has been quoted as saying that they are not going to stand by for even mild economic measures. That implies a degree of danger that we all ought to understand," Sen. Lugar said.

"There is, I think, a necessity not to be satisfied with some kind of compromise, modest agreement here," Sen. Nunn said.

"The North Korean leadership, I believe, has been quoted as saying that they are not going to stand by for even mild economic measures. That implies a degree of danger that we all ought to understand," Sen. Lugar said.

"There is, I think, a necessity not to be satisfied with some kind of compromise, modest agreement here," Sen. Nunn said.

"The North Korean leadership, I believe, has been quoted as saying that they are not going to stand by for even mild economic measures. That implies a degree of danger that we all ought to understand," Sen. Lugar said.

"There is, I think, a necessity not to be satisfied with some kind of compromise, modest agreement here," Sen. Nunn said.

"The North Korean leadership, I believe, has been quoted as saying that they are not going to stand by for even mild economic measures. That implies a degree of danger that we all ought to understand," Sen. Lugar said.

"There is, I think, a necessity not to be satisfied with some kind of compromise, modest agreement here," Sen. Nunn said.

"The North Korean leadership, I believe, has been quoted as saying that they are not going to stand by for even mild economic measures. That implies a degree of danger that we all ought to understand," Sen. Lugar said.

"There is, I think, a necessity not to be satisfied with some kind of compromise, modest agreement here," Sen. Nunn said.

"The North Korean leadership, I believe, has been quoted as saying that they are not going to stand by for even mild economic measures. That implies a degree of danger that we all ought to understand," Sen. Lugar said.

"There is, I think, a necessity not to be satisfied with some kind of compromise, modest agreement here," Sen. Nunn said.

"The North Korean leadership, I believe, has been quoted as saying that they are not going to stand by for even mild economic measures. That implies a degree of danger that we all ought to understand," Sen. Lugar said.

"There is, I think, a necessity not to be satisfied with some kind of compromise, modest agreement here," Sen. Nunn said.

The Zapatistas, whom the government estimates number as many as 2,000 and are made up mostly of descendants of Maya Indians, launched a surprise raid on New Year's Day in the hills of Chiapas, said Friday they had toppled two 90-foot (30-metre) electrical towers late Thursday in the cities of Puebla and Uruapan, 160 kilometres east and 120 kilometres west, respectively, of Mexico City.

The Zapatistas, who began their uprising on New Year's Day in the hills of southern state of Chiapas, said Friday they had toppled two 90-foot (30-metre) electrical towers late Thursday in the cities of Puebla and Uruapan, 160 kilometres east and 120 kilometres west, respectively, of Mexico City.

The destruction of the towers, which were knocked over with trucks, was the first indication the Zapatistas — who say they are fighting in Chiapas for indigenous rights — were ready to make good on a threat to expand the area of conflict.

Mexico City Airport officials told Reuters they had put their security forces on maximum alert at all of the country's airports because of fear of rebel operations.

"The airport is in a state of maximum alert. Because of the magnitude of the conflict, we are taking special care," said a spokesman for Mexico's air force.

"The attack came from Ghana, it came from a commando operating from Ghana as usual..." he told Radio France Internationale Friday.

We were more than 50 who tried to enter Lome, where we

bombs for three consecutive days at suspected rebel positions just outside San Cristobal, forcing hundreds of civilians to flee their homes and take refuge in the city and nearby towns.

In San Cristobal, army units moved from house to house searching for rebel combatants.

The government said some 400 insurgents Thursday had opened fire on three reconnaissance aircraft and two

NEWS IN BRIEF

Nyberg wins giant slalom

KRANJSKA GORA, Slovenia (AP) — Sweden's Fredrik Nyberg stormed back from sixth after the first leg to snatch his first World Cup victory since 1990 in the giant slalom here Saturday. Italy's Matteo Belfond was second, 0.12 sec. behind Nyberg. Germany's Tobias Barnessoi was third. Norway's Kjetil Andre Aamodt, who headed the field after the first leg, lost his rhythm and his goggles in a ragged second run. Barely able to see in the rainy conditions, he slipped to ninth place and lost his place at the top of the overall World Cup standings to Austria's Gunther Mader. Mader, second after the first leg, tied for fifth place with Slovenian Mitja Kunc. Slalom specialist Alberto Tomba's hopes of closing the gap on Mader and Aamodt were dashed when the Italian missed a gate mid-way through his run on the first leg.

Women's Super-G called off

ALTENMARKT, Austria (R) — A women's Alpine skiing World Cup super-G race was called off for safety reasons Saturday after several racers had fallen. "We can no longer guarantee the safety of the racers and the race has been abandoned, with no winners," said jury chairman Kurt Hoch. He said it was still planned that Sunday's slalom would go ahead. The decision to call off the event was taken after six of the first 32 racers had crashed off the Kalberloc Course in the treacherous Panorama Curve and several others fell after being unable to stop in the finish area. "The finish has become too fast due to the falling temperature and the racers are unable to stop properly," Hoch said. The first to crash on the curve — a sharp left-hand turn followed immediately by a right-angle right turn, was Norway's Astrid Loedemel, who flew into the protective barrier. She was carried down the slope on a stretcher and taken to hospital with an injury to ligaments in her right knee.

Legia Warszawa coach leaves for UAE

WARSAW (R) — Janusz Wojcik has quit as coach of leading Polish club Legia Warszawa to take charge of the United Arab Emirates' Olympic team. Polish news agency (PAP) said Saturday. Wojcik, 40, led Legia to the Polish League championship last season but the club was stripped of the title over a bribery scandal. Poland also won the silver medal at the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona under his leadership. Wojcik, who was last month passed over for the then vacant job of coach to Poland's national squad, left Poland Friday to start a two-year contract, PAP said. It quoted Legia officials as saying they had asked Wojcik's assistant, Paweł Janas, to replace him but he had not yet responded to the offer.

German captain marries

BOLE, Switzerland (AFP) — Lothar Matthaeus, captain of the German national soccer team married his longtime companion Lolita Morena, a former Miss Switzerland and now a television presenter. The couple, who have a child, were married in the town hall at Bole in western Switzerland, Ms. Morena's home village.

Celtic poised to move house

GLASGOW, Scotland (AFP) — Celtic will make a "major announcement" on a move from Parkhead to a new stadium in Glasgow soon, Chairman Kevin Kelly promised. Kelly said the debt-ridden club have the necessary funds to make the project viable. A 52,000 seat stadium at Cambuslang in south-east Glasgow has been planned for two years. But the start of the £100-million (\$150 million) project has been held up for a variety of reasons. Kelly said: "We've got to the stage where we know we've got the backing. We know we've got the funding. It's just a case of when we'll make the major announcement." Team manager Lou Macari has said he wants to stay at the current stadium, Parkhead. Macari, who began his playing career at Parkhead, said: "I phoned the chairman and I'm assured that if it goes ahead it will be beneficial to me and the club. But I want to stay here. This is our spiritual home."

Maleeva pulls out of hardcourt meet

BRISBANE (R) — Top-seeded Magdalena Maleeva was forced to withdraw from the Australian Women's Hardcourt Championships Saturday after suffering severe dehydration in heatwave conditions. The Bulgarian 18-year-old was in hospital for three hours Friday night after complaining of headaches and weakness. She was forced to forfeit her semifinal against Argentina's Florencia Labat, the 11th seed, as temperatures once again soared in Brisbane. "I am very disappointed this happened because I was playing very well," said Maleeva in a prepared statement. "I took every precaution but it happened anyway," added the world number 16-ranked player who was given fluids intravenously in hospital. Earlier this week, Maleeva warned about the dangers of playing in such sweltering temperatures. Temperatures on court have reached over 30 degrees Celsius (122 degrees Fahrenheit) this week as the rebound ace surface absorbed the heat. Sunday's final will

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIA HIRSCH
©1993 Turner Media Services, Inc.

HOW'S THAT AGAIN?

North-South vulnerable. South
 NORTH
 ♦ 7 3
 ♦ Q 5 2
 ♦ K 7 2
 ♦ A Q J 5 2
 WEST: ♦ 10 6 4 2 ♦ Q 6 5
 ♦ K 6 7 4 ♦ Q 10
 ♦ Q 8 ♦ J 10 S 3
 ♦ 6 3 ♦ K 10 9 6
 SOUTH
 ♦ A K J
 ♦ A 9 6 3
 ♦ A 6 5 4
 ♦ 7 4
 The bidding:
 South West North East
 1 NT Pass 3 NT Pass
 Pass
 Opening lead: Four of ♠
 There are some people out there who like nothing better than catching a bridge authority in an unguarded moment. We were trapped when someone showed us the club constitution in the North-South hands and asked us how it should be played. Finesthe jack, we're spooded. Of course, that's correct if you need four or five tricks in the suit. But what if you need only three?

Since South can afford to lose two club tricks, the winning line is to force the defenders to take the first club. Declarer can accomplish this by leading a club at trick two and ducking in dummy. Declarer can win any return and then finesse the jack of clubs. Whether East holds up or not, the suit can be developed while the king of diamonds is still on the table as an entry.

be between Labat and America's Lindsay Davenport, who beat Taipei's Shi-Ting Wang 6-2, 6-4 in the other semifinal.

All Russian final in men's hardcourt

ADELAIDE, Australia (AP) — The climax of the Australian Hardcourt Championship final Sunday will be an all-Russian affair after Yevgeny Kafelnikov stormed into his first tour final. Kafelnikov, ranked 102, humbled Australia's last hope Patrick Rafter 6-1, 7-5 in just under 80 minutes to book a final clash with Alexander Volkov. Volkov, the fourth seed, ousted Swedish titleholder Nicklas Kulti in three sets in the other semifinal. After prolonged rain Friday, the championship was forced to schedule two quarterfinals Saturday with Kulti having to resume his overnight match against Frenchman Guillaume Raoux. Kulti resumed leading 2-1 in the second set having taken the first in a tie-breaker. He maintained the pressure on Raoux to win the second set 6-3 and advance to a semifinal showdown with Volkov. Volkov clinically disposed of Danish player Kenneth Carlsen in straight sets and returned to wear down Kulti late in the afternoon. The Russian came from behind to win 4-6, 6-3, 6-3 to set up the ATP Tour's first ever all-Russian final.

Narrow win for Graf in Hong Kong

HONG KONG (R) — World number one Steffi Graf warmed up for this month's Australian Open with an important psychological victory over second-ranked Arantxa Sanchez Vicario in the final of an exhibition tournament Friday. Graf battled back from the brink of defeat to beat the Spaniard 7-5 6-7 (5-7) 7-5 in a match contested far more keenly than most show games in the run-up to the Australian Open starting in Melbourne on Jan. 17. Graf trailed 5-4 in the deciding set but two breaks of serve gave her a confidence-boosting win in just over two hours. "I did not want to play that long," Graf said. "It was a close match — a little bit up and down for me. I have not played outdoors for a while so this was very necessary before Melbourne. It was a good warm up really."

Ferreira defeats McEnroe in Hawaii

HONOLULU (AP) — Top-seeded Wayne Ferreira of South Africa served 14 aces on the way to defeating No. 8 Patrick McEnroe 6-4, 6-4 to advance to the semifinals of the Hawaii Open. Ferreira meets No. 5 Jonathan Stark, a 7-6 (7-4), 7-6 (7-5) winner over No. 4 Brad Gilbert, in Saturday's semifinals. In other quarterfinal action, No. 2 Richey Reneberg defeated No. 7 Renzo Furlan of Italy 6-4, 6-2 and Robbie Weiss downed Jimmy Arias 6-0, 2-6, 6-3. "I served really well and he didn't put me under that much pressure on my service games," Ferreira said. "Serving a lot of aces like that makes it easier to put pressure on his service game."

Blair wins U.S. speedskating event

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Bonnie Blair skated the fifth-fastest 500 metres ever, streaking past her competition in the U.S. Olympic speedskating trials with a blistering time of 39.59 seconds. Blair, the only woman to win consecutive Olympic gold medals in the 500, skated the fastest time ever outside of Calgary's Olympic Oval. Blair set the world record of 39.10 in the 1988 Winter Olympics at Calgary, and Friday's time was her best since then. A favourite to strike gold again in the Winter Olympics at Lillehammer, Norway next month, Blair also broke the Pettit National Ice Centre record of 39.76 that she set last weekend. Blair has set track records at the year-old Pettit Centre in each of her six races during the trials: Three times in the 500; twice at 1,000 metres and once at 1,500 metres. Peggy Clasen was the second-fastest American in Friday's 500, finishing in 41.47. However, China's Ye Qiao, Blair's bitter rival, skated a 40.87 in an international time trial.

Courier relaxed after break

ADELAIDE, Australia (AP) — A relaxed Jim Courier, fresh from a break from tennis over Christmas, arrived in Adelaide Saturday for the defence of the Rio Challenge title he has won for the last two years. The world's third-ranked player and defending Australian Open champion said he was in good condition and confident about winning three straight Australian crowns in Melbourne beginning Jan. 17. "All I've got to do is go and hit some tennis balls and then see what happens," the 23-year-old American said. "I am just here to get some matches in and hopefully play well and take some good form into Melbourne. The winning is something I can't control, I just go out there and play, and if I play well then maybe I can win." The Rio Challenge, a six-man exhibition tournament, will pit Courier against the likes of Sweden's Stefan Edberg, Croatia's Goran Ivanisevic and emerging Australian Patrick Rafter.

Ritsma breaks 1,500m speedskating record

HAMAR (R) — Dutchman Rintje Ritsma broke the 1,500 metres speed skating world record Saturday when he clocked one minute 51.60 seconds in the European Championships at the indoor rink in Hamar. Former East German Andre Hoffmann set the previous record of 1:52.06 at the 1988 Calgary Olympics.

Everton gets new manager

LONDON (R) — Mike Walker was appointed manager of struggling English Premier League club Everton on Dec. 4. He had been anxious to discuss the possibility of a move with Walker, but Norwich Chairman Robert Clark refused to let him talk to them. Walker's stance prompted Chase to resign and he immediately sent a fax to Greenwood, saying he was interested in an interview for the club's vacant managerial position. They would be making an official complaint to the Football Association that Everton

"poached" Walker.

Chase said: "We feel Everton have effectively induced Mike Walker to take this action and we will be sending an official written complaint to the F.A. and the Premier League."

"I have got to know Mike very well over the past few months and it surprises me that anyone would walk away from a football club a day before an important game."

Norwich was to play Wycombe in the third round of the F.A. Cup Saturday.

Walker, who guided un-fashionable Norwich to a surprise UEFA Cup win over Bayern Munich earlier this season, said he was looking forward to the challenge of managing one of the biggest clubs in the country.

John Deegan, Walker's assistant, has been appointed caretaker manager at Norwich.

Chase's stance prompted

Kerrigan hopes attack will not kill her Olympic dream

I might not have been able to walk."

Dr. Mahlon Bradley said Kerrigan said her right knee was still on the 1994 Winter Olympics despite being smashed in the knee by an assailant, who he had hit her one inch lower than me.

"Right now my focus is to get better," Kerrigan said Friday after suffering a deep bruise on her right knee from being hit with a night stick after practice Thursday.

"And hopefully, if I'm chosen, get ready for the Olympics."

Kerrigan was forced to withdraw from the national Championships because of the injury but may still be named to the Olympic team by a special U.S. committee.

Fighting back tears as she faced dozens of reporters and camera crews, Kerrigan said she cried when doctors told her Friday morning she could not compete in the championships.

"I kept crying and it was hard," she said. "I wanted to keep jumping (in front of the doctors) but the knee was really bad."

"I've been skating so well," said Kerrigan, determined to make up for a disappointing fifth-place showing at last year's World Championships in Prague. "I've trained really hard and I'm skating the best I've ever skated."

"The doctors think I'll be ready (for the Olympics)."

Kerrigan said the psychological effects of the attack would be difficult to shake.

"It's hard to say how long I'll look over my shoulder to see what's behind me," Kerrigan said.

"It could have been career-ending if it would've been an inch lower. There would have been much more damage, and Kerrigan said she never saw

Brazilian match-rigging is common — former referee

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — A former Brazilian referee said Friday that match-fixing in the Rio De Janeiro Championship had been common since 1983 and claimed that some referees were corrupt.

"There are three types of referees in Rio De Janeiro — the correct ones, the corrupt ones and the others," said Reginaldo Mathias, a referee until 1983 and a former president of the Rio De Janeiro Referees' Association.

Mathias' claims followed allegations of plans to rig the results of some matches in the 1994 Rio De Janeiro Championship.

On Tuesday, referee Claudio Ceredeira accused Rio Federation Director Wagner Canazaro of telling referees they had to ensure the results of certain games were in the federation's interests.

Canazaro has denied the allegation and Rio Federation President Eduardo Viana, has denied the organisation is corrupt.

"Thankfully, the correct referees are in the majority, but unfortunately it is difficult for them to be promoted," said Mathias.

"Then there are the corrupt ones who receive money to change results, to give players yellow cards or not to give players yellow cards, to mention things in reports or not, depending on the circumstances."

"The others... go along with the interests of the federation and don't receive any money in return. They do it just to be promoted. But they are the worst because they have the appearance of being honest."

Mathias made the comments to reporters at a Rio De

Horse trainer remains in coma

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — Thoroughbred trainer Jeff Lukas, hit by a runaway horse on Dec. 15, remained in a coma while showing encouraging signs. "He's very definitely still in a coma, and it's very gradual long process," his father, D. Wayne Lukas, said. "But he's trying to come out of it a little. He lapses in and out, moving his hands and opening his eyes, but he's making good progress." Lukas, 36, was upgraded from critical condition to serious this week at Huntington Memorial Hospital. He suffered fractures at the base of his skull when run down by Tabasco Cat at the Lukas Barn at Santa Anita in nearby Arcadia, and contracted pneumonia five days later.

her attacker because he came from behind just as she passed through a curtain leading away from the practice rink.

"I was getting off the ice and went through the curtains," Kerrigan said. "I must have heard something and saw somebody running toward me. He hit me with this long black stick and kept on running."

"It was one good whack."

Kerrigan said she thought the attack was a deliberate attempt to keep her from skating. "To smash my knee seemed pretty deliberate to me," she said.

Bradley said Kerrigan will undergo a magnetic resonance imaging scan Monday in Boston to determine the extent of the damage, but said she could heal in time for the Olympics.

Kerrigan's coach, Evi Scott, said Kerrigan is "very determined" to skate in the Olympics.

"We cannot let a vicious criminal prevent her from the team if she is able to go," he said. "Nancy will be determined at ever but she will be frightened for a long time."

The doctors think I'll be ready (for the Olympics)."

Kerrigan said the psychological effects of the attack would be difficult to shake.

"It's hard to say how long I'll look over my shoulder to see what's behind me," Kerrigan said.

"It's obvious that things have changed a little bit," Heiss-Jenkins said. "We've changed. All of the sudden we've become very protective."

Kerrigan said she never saw

some bad calls. But I have had problems all week both in the singles and doubles," said the Frenchman.

"The linesmen here have to be more positive and not wait before they make a call."

But Leconte admitted Edberg had been just too good for him.

Looking ahead to the Australian Open later this month, he said: "I think Stefan has the game to win another Grand Slam event."

Ivanisevic was also in a critical mood, hitting out at the organisers for making him play a doubles immediately after his match with Pescosolido.

"I have had enough tough matches this week and I wasn't happy about it... but they don't care."

"If I had played just one match today, I would be fresher to meet Haarhuis tomorrow. He killed me the last time we played in Tokyo but this is a different surface so it should be an interesting match."

"We all know we will have

Electronic tennis comes closer to acceptance

PERTH, Australia (AP) — Like it or not, electronics appear certain to make most officials on the tennis court redundant.

That was the message from the Hopman Cup mixed teams' tournament here, the first international competition to use a revolutionary new line call system throughout.

Not everyone enthused about the Tennis Electronic Lines (TEL). But the consensus among players and administrators was that, despite a few hiccups, the system developed by an Australian company TEL Pty Ltd, represents the future.

Hopman Cup director Paul McNamee said it would probably be used here again next year and further tests seem likely before then.

Perhaps not surprisingly, the winners of the tournament

gave the revolutionary technology a ringing endorsement.

"It gave me no problems all week," said world No. 12 Petr Korda. "I rate it very successful."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Pakistan minister warns of nuclear war

TASHKENT, Uzbekistan (R) — Warning of "immense danger," Pakistan Foreign Minister Assef Ahmad Ali said on Saturday that nuclear war might engulf South Asia if his country's territorial dispute with India went unresolved. Mr. Ali told a news conference during a visit to the former Soviet republic of Uzbekistan that, unless Islamabad's dispute with Delhi of India's held Kashmir was settled peacefully, war was possible. "Unless the Kashmir dispute is solved peacefully on the terms of international law and United Nations resolutions, there cannot be lasting peace in South Asia and there is always a danger of a fourth war in South Asia," Ali said. "And this time around, the concern of the world, the concern of South Asian countries and regional countries is that if a war takes place in South Asia it might become a nuclear war."

Qadhafi: NATO is a threat to peace

TRIPOLI (AFP) — Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Qadhafi has accused the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) of being a "threat to world peace, civilisation and humanity," the official Libyan news agency (JANA) reported Saturday. He accused Western powers, which formed NATO in 1949, of "colonising the world, provoking the two world wars and manufacturing the atomic and chemical bombs." NATO is to hold a summit in Brussels Monday and Tuesday with U.S. President Bill Clinton attending. Col. Qadhafi said Mr. Clinton was a victim of "Western colonialist circles and U.S. companies" who want to "compromise" him in foreign affairs and prevent him from being reelected to a second four-year term. The Libyan leader said in his Friday night speech that the 16-member "capitalist" Western alliance was leading the world to a catastrophe through its "scorn" of others.

Turk gets 26 years for BBC killing

ERBIL (AFP) — A court here Saturday convicted a Turkish guide of robbing and murdering two BBC freelance journalists in Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq and sentenced him to 26 years in prison. Erbil criminal court found Hashim Jirki guilty of killing Charles Maxwell and Nick Della Casa as he took them across the Turkish-Iraqi border during the Kurdish uprising in northern Iraq in March 1991. The court sentenced Mr. Jirki to 20 years for the murders and an additional six years in prison for stealing their money and cameras. But it ruled there was not enough evidence to convict the 22-year-old guide of murdering Della Casa's wife Rossana. Her body was never found.

10 injured in bomb blast at Karachi

KARACHI (AFP) — A powerful bomb exploded in a parking area at the premises of the city court Saturday, injuring at least 10 people and damaging more than 20 motorbikes and several vehicles, police said. The bomb, which the bomb disposal squad chief Moeenuddin said had been planted on a motorcycle, also shattered the windows of the court building. A magistrate, a soldier and a policeman were among the injured, ambulance and official sources said. Karachi is the capital of Pakistan's southern Sindh province, where troops have been deployed since June 1992 to maintain law and order. The official Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) quoted administration officials saying the bombing was an "act of sabotage" carried out by trained terrorists."

Woman gets 10 years for court-room shooting

SONORA, California (AP) — A woman who fatally shot her young son's alleged molester in a courtroom was sentenced to 10 years in prison Friday by a judge who rejected pleas for clemency because the woman has cancer. Superior Court Judge William Polley sentenced Ellie Nesler to six years for voluntary manslaughter and an additional four years for using a gun to commit the crime. "This crime was in fact an execution," said Mr. Polley, who also denied Ms. Nesler's request for bail.

Judge suspends proceedings in PFLP case

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A judge on Friday suspended deportation proceedings against six people accused of raising funds for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), the American Civil Liberties Union said. U.S. District Judge Stephen Wilson granted a preliminary injunction against the Immigration and Naturalisation Service from deporting the six, who claim the effort against them is politically motivated. Mr. Wilson also barred the INS from using secret evidence against two of the aliens because the agency failed to show a pressing need for using undisclosed information, the ACLU said. Mr. Wilson's ruling bars the INS from deporting the aliens until the government can show that the deportation doesn't constitute selective prosecution, said attorney Mark van der Hout of the National Lawyers Guild.

Yeltsin sends Assad message on Mideast

DAMASCUS (R) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin sent Syrian President Hafez Al-Assad a message Saturday dealing with the Arab-Israeli peace talks, co-sponsored by the United States and Russia. Officials said the message, also dealing with bilateral cooperation, was delivered by Russian Ambassador to Syria Alexander Zotov to Foreign Minister Farouk Al-Sharaa in Damascus. The message came eight days before a summit meeting between Mr. Assad and U.S. President Bill Clinton in Geneva.

More Russian Jews seek to emigrate

MOSCOW (AFP) — A growing number of Russian Jews have applied to emigrate to Israel following the electoral success of ultranationalist leader Vladimir Zhirinovsky, officials from the Far-Eastern Jewish autonomous region of Birobidjan said Saturday. The high score obtained by Mr. Zhirinovsky's far-right Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) in last month's legislative elections "has reinforced the wish to emigrate among the Jewish community," the Birobidjan Jewish community coordinating committee said, quoted by the Itar-Tass news agency. It gave no figures, but said there had been a "growing number of visa requests for Israel" since the Dec. 12 elections.

Two killed in sand fall in Egypt

CAIRO (R) — Two children were killed on Saturday when a pile of sand fell on them from the Moqattam hills, an escarpment on the edge of Cairo. The accident happened in the slum area of Manshiyet Nasser, in the same location where a rock weighing some 3,000 tonnes fell last month and buried at least 50 people, police said. Manshiyet Nasser is where Cairo's household rubbish is collected and burnt. The plateau above the escarpment was declared safe for housing in the 1960s and now has at least 250,000 inhabitants. The government has set up a committee including scientists to investigate the earlier accident and decide whether the plateau is safe.

Germany to start Somalia pullout this month

BONN (R) — Germany will begin withdrawing troops and military equipment from the U.N. peacekeeping force in Somalia this month, the defence ministry said on Saturday. A spokesman said the pullout would initially involve mostly military vehicles and material with the bulk of the 1,300 German troops starting to leave in February. The soldiers can be flown out from their northern base at Belet Huen, but their heavy equipment must be shipped out through Mogadishu, 300 kilometres to the south. German military experts have voiced concern that the troops could be ambushed during the withdrawal by Somali gangs seeking valuables like tanks, trucks or medicine.



REFORMISTS: Dr. Haider Abdul Shafi (centre), erstwhile chief Palestinian negotiator with Israel, Saturday meets with a group of Palestine National Council members and other activists seeking reform in the Palestine Liberation Organisation's decision-making process (see story on page 1) Photo by Yousef Al-Ahmar

Iraq puts U.N. sanctions death toll at 400,000

By Jerome Socolovsky
The Associated Press

NICOSIA — Nearly 400,000 Iraqis, one-third of them children under five years old, have died because of the U.N. sanctions imposed more than three years ago, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said Saturday.

The figures were released in a year-end report by the Health Ministry, the agency said in a dispatch monitored in Nicosia.

In addition to the 140,000 deaths among children, the ministry said it had registered more than 42,000 cases of malnutrition among children under five.

Following reports of renewed chemical attacks against rebels in southern Iraq, the Security Council ruled that it needed at least another six months to verify Iraq's full compliance.

The issue has split the council, with France demanding that oil sanctions be lifted once it is established that Iraq is complying.

The United States and Britain want to restrict Iraq to exporting enough oil to meet human rights and demanding that Baghdad recognise its post-war border with Kuwait.

The Health Ministry said that among the general population, there were 362 cases of polio, 3,627 cases of whooping cough, 1,048 cases of diphtheria, as well as tens of thousands of cases of measles, tetanus, mumps, cholera, pneumonia and other contagious diseases, all stemming from the hardships caused by the sanctions.

The ministry report said the embargo has seriously hindered medical care available to Iraqis.

It noted that the number of major surgical operations has plummeted from more than 15,000 a year before the sanctions to just over 5,000 in 1993.

Iraqi doctors, the report said, "appeal to all human organisations and societies to seriously demand the lifting of the embargo."

Some of Iraq's depictions of widespread misery have been corroborated by independent sources.

The Rome-based U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation reported last July that U.N. experts have found "pre-famine indicators" in Iraq and warned that the country risked "massive starvation" as the food supply deteriorated.

A 1992 Harvard School of Public Health study commissioned by the U.N. estimated that tens of thousands more children a year were dying compared to before the Gulf war, largely because of outbreaks of diarrhoea.

The embargo exempts food, medicine and other humanitarian goods. But few people can now afford what supplies do reach Iraq.

Although Baghdad has grudgingly allowed U.N. inspectors to monitor its weapons programme according to Security Council resolutions, sanctions were extended last November.

The ministry report said the embargo has seriously hindered medical care available to Iraqis.

It noted that the number of major surgical operations has plummeted from more than 15,000 a year before the sanctions to just over 5,000 in 1993.

Iraqi doctors, the report said, "appeal to all human organisations and societies to seriously demand the lifting of the embargo."

Some of Iraq's depictions of widespread misery have been corroborated by independent sources.

The Rome-based U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation reported last July that U.N. experts have found "pre-famine indicators" in Iraq and warned that the country risked "massive starvation" as the food supply deteriorated.

A 1992 Harvard School of Public Health study commissioned by the U.N. estimated that tens of thousands more children a year were dying compared to before the Gulf war, largely because of outbreaks of diarrhoea.

The embargo exempts food, medicine and other humanitarian goods. But few people can now afford what supplies do reach Iraq.

Although Baghdad has grudgingly allowed U.N. inspectors to monitor its weapons programme according to Security Council resolutions, sanctions were extended last November.

The ministry report said the embargo has seriously hindered medical care available to Iraqis.

It noted that the number of major surgical operations has plummeted from more than 15,000 a year before the sanctions to just over 5,000 in 1993.

Iraqi doctors, the report said, "appeal to all human organisations and societies to seriously demand the lifting of the embargo."

Some of Iraq's depictions of widespread misery have been corroborated by independent sources.

The Rome-based U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation reported last July that U.N. experts have found "pre-famine indicators" in Iraq and warned that the country risked "massive starvation" as the food supply deteriorated.

A 1992 Harvard School of Public Health study commissioned by the U.N. estimated that tens of thousands more children a year were dying compared to before the Gulf war, largely because of outbreaks of diarrhoea.

The embargo exempts food, medicine and other humanitarian goods. But few people can now afford what supplies do reach Iraq.

Although Baghdad has grudgingly allowed U.N. inspectors to monitor its weapons programme according to Security Council resolutions, sanctions were extended last November.

The ministry report said the embargo has seriously hindered medical care available to Iraqis.

It noted that the number of major surgical operations has plummeted from more than 15,000 a year before the sanctions to just over 5,000 in 1993.

Iraqi doctors, the report said, "appeal to all human organisations and societies to seriously demand the lifting of the embargo."

Some of Iraq's depictions of widespread misery have been corroborated by independent sources.

The Rome-based U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation reported last July that U.N. experts have found "pre-famine indicators" in Iraq and warned that the country risked "massive starvation" as the food supply deteriorated.

A 1992 Harvard School of Public Health study commissioned by the U.N. estimated that tens of thousands more children a year were dying compared to before the Gulf war, largely because of outbreaks of diarrhoea.

The embargo exempts food, medicine and other humanitarian goods. But few people can now afford what supplies do reach Iraq.

Although Baghdad has grudgingly allowed U.N. inspectors to monitor its weapons programme according to Security Council resolutions, sanctions were extended last November.

The ministry report said the embargo has seriously hindered medical care available to Iraqis.

It noted that the number of major surgical operations has plummeted from more than 15,000 a year before the sanctions to just over 5,000 in 1993.

Iraqi doctors, the report said, "appeal to all human organisations and societies to seriously demand the lifting of the embargo."

Some of Iraq's depictions of widespread misery have been corroborated by independent sources.

The Rome-based U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation reported last July that U.N. experts have found "pre-famine indicators" in Iraq and warned that the country risked "massive starvation" as the food supply deteriorated.

A 1992 Harvard School of Public Health study commissioned by the U.N. estimated that tens of thousands more children a year were dying compared to before the Gulf war, largely because of outbreaks of diarrhoea.

The embargo exempts food, medicine and other humanitarian goods. But few people can now afford what supplies do reach Iraq.

Although Baghdad has grudgingly allowed U.N. inspectors to monitor its weapons programme according to Security Council resolutions, sanctions were extended last November.

The ministry report said the embargo has seriously hindered medical care available to Iraqis.

It noted that the number of major surgical operations has plummeted from more than 15,000 a year before the sanctions to just over 5,000 in 1993.

Iraqi doctors, the report said, "appeal to all human organisations and societies to seriously demand the lifting of the embargo."

Some of Iraq's depictions of widespread misery have been corroborated by independent sources.

The Rome-based U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation reported last July that U.N. experts have found "pre-famine indicators" in Iraq and warned that the country risked "massive starvation" as the food supply deteriorated.

A 1992 Harvard School of Public Health study commissioned by the U.N. estimated that tens of thousands more children a year were dying compared to before the Gulf war, largely because of outbreaks of diarrhoea.

The embargo exempts food, medicine and other humanitarian goods. But few people can now afford what supplies do reach Iraq.

Although Baghdad has grudgingly allowed U.N. inspectors to monitor its weapons programme according to Security Council resolutions, sanctions were extended last November.

The ministry report said the embargo has seriously hindered medical care available to Iraqis.

It noted that the number of major surgical operations has plummeted from more than 15,000 a year before the sanctions to just over 5,000 in 1993.

Iraqi doctors, the report said, "appeal to all human organisations and societies to seriously demand the lifting of the embargo."

Some of Iraq's depictions of widespread misery have been corroborated by independent sources.

The Rome-based U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation reported last July that U.N. experts have found "pre-famine indicators" in Iraq and warned that the country risked "massive starvation" as the food supply deteriorated.

A 1992 Harvard School of Public Health study commissioned by the U.N. estimated that tens of thousands more children a year were dying compared to before the Gulf war, largely because of outbreaks of diarrhoea.

The embargo exempts food, medicine and other humanitarian goods. But few people can now afford what supplies do reach Iraq.

Although Baghdad has grudgingly allowed U.N. inspectors to monitor its weapons programme according to Security Council resolutions, sanctions were extended last November.

The ministry report said the embargo has seriously hindered medical care available to Iraqis.

It noted that the number of major surgical operations has plummeted from more than 15,000 a year before the sanctions to just over 5,000 in 1993.

Iraqi doctors, the report said, "appeal to all human organisations and societies to seriously demand the lifting of the embargo."

Some of Iraq's depictions of widespread misery have been corroborated by independent sources.

The Rome-based U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation reported last July that U.N. experts have found "pre-famine indicators" in Iraq and warned that the country risked "massive starvation" as the food supply deteriorated.

A 1992 Harvard School of Public Health study commissioned by the U.N. estimated that tens of thousands more children a year were dying compared to before the Gulf war, largely because of outbreaks of diarrhoea.

The embargo exempts food, medicine and other humanitarian goods. But few people can now afford what supplies do reach Iraq.

Although Baghdad has grudgingly allowed U.N. inspectors to monitor its weapons programme according to Security Council resolutions, sanctions were extended last November.

The ministry report said the embargo has seriously hindered medical care available to Iraqis.

It noted that the number of major surgical operations has plummeted from more than 15,000 a year before the sanctions to just over 5,000 in 1993.

Iraqi doctors, the report said, "appeal to all human organisations and societies to seriously demand the lifting of the embargo."

Some of Iraq's depictions of widespread misery have been corroborated by independent sources.

The Rome-based U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation reported last July that U.N. experts have found "pre-famine indicators" in Iraq and warned that the country risked "massive starvation" as the food supply deteriorated.

A 1992 Harvard School of Public Health study commissioned by the U.N. estimated that tens of thousands more children a year were dying compared to before the Gulf war, largely because of outbreaks of diarrhoea.

The embargo exempts food, medicine and other humanitarian goods. But few people can now afford what supplies do reach Iraq.

Although Baghdad has grudgingly allowed U.N. inspectors to monitor its weapons programme according to Security Council resolutions, sanctions were extended last November.

The ministry report said the embargo has seriously hindered medical care available to Iraqis.

It noted that the number of major surgical operations has plummeted from more than 15,000 a year before the sanctions to just over 5,000 in 1993.